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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Talks Commence in Cairo

Sha'th Comments on Talks

NC1107105094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations started this morning chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and Dani Rothschild, Israeli coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

During this round, discussions will focus on pending issues between the two sides, such as the release of the remaining Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons.

The Palestinian delegation consists of 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, chairman of the Security Affairs Committee; Hasan 'Usfur, head of the department for negotiations in the PNA; lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, who is the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

The Israeli side includes Chief of Military Planning Uzi Dayan and Joel Zinger, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian side to the negotiations, told reporters before the negotiations that during this round they will finalize discussion of the remaining topics stipulated in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. These topics are: releasing the remaining Palestinian detainees, women in particular, solving the problem of the security corridor between Gaza and Jericho, expanding the Jericho region, starting the international presence, and other pending items.

Sha'th said: It is important for us to immediately start negotiating the distribution of the PNA in the West Bank, since it is the strategic issue. He pointed out that the first agreement stipulates the territorial indivisibility of Gaza and Jericho from the rest of the West Bank, that is, that Gaza cannot be separated from the West Bank.

He added: Discussions will also address the issue of elections in the Palestinian self-rule areas, which we hope will take place before the end of October.

Answering a question on the economy of the self-rule areas with a high population, Sha'th said this would be shaped in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, which stipulates that the first stage of redeploying the Israeli forces is their withdrawal from the villages, towns, and populated areas.

He added that during the second stage, the forces will withdraw in full from the security areas agreed upon. This stage will take place after electing the Palestinian Legislative Council.

With regard to Jerusalem, Sha'th said the subject will not be discussed during this round. He pointed out that Jerusalem will be discussed in other negotiations that will address the final status and preservation of the Palestinian institutions and Islamic and Christian holy places during the transitional period.

Sha'th Views Financial Crisis

NC1207105294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on outstanding problems between the two sides concerning the Gaza-Jericho accord resumed this morning.

The Palestinian side at the talks is led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority. The Israelis are led by Dani Rothschild, general coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

Before the talks began, Sha'th said that all the issues to be discussed between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will be defined this week so that stances might be adopted on them, particularly the release of political prisoners and, most notably, the release of 37 Palestinian women prisoners.

He added that the Gaza-Jericho Committee will discuss the release of prisoners, particularly the women, in addition to other issues—the temporary international presence, al-Mawasi coast in Gaza, Jericho's area, and the transfer of Palestinian authority to the West Bank. He noted that discussion of the transfer of authority in the educational sector will begin next week.

Answering a question from MENA on the release of Hamas Movement leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, Sha'th said: The Israelis have told us nothing new on this and the Israeli side raised this point in yesterday's session.

Asked about 'Arafat's return to Gaza despite the financial crisis being suffered by the Palestinian self-rule authority, Sha'th said the self-rule authority has not emerged from its financial crisis, even with 'Arafat's travel to the Gaza Strip to take up permanent residence there. He added: But we are continuing to discuss the crisis.

Negotiators Form Two Subcommittees

NC1207055794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, has announced that agreement has been reached in the talks which began with the Israeli side in Cairo yesterday to form two subcommittees. The first subcommittee is to continue discussing issues concerning the Gaza-Jericho accord and the second is to discuss the early transfer of civilian authority.

Sha'th said negotiations in Cairo with the Israeli side will conclude today. The talks, he added, will resume next Monday [18 July] and will focus on the transfer of authority in the education sector.

Beilin,'Arafat Meet in Tunisia on Early Empowerment

TA1107131194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin conferred with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis this morning. Dr. Beilin told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the PLO leader regards the early empowerment discussions as highly important, and believes they should be concluded by September so that a single curriculum can be introduced in all West Bank schools. 'Arafat also said that from the PLO viewpoint, the success of the autonomy will be judged by its implementation in the Gaza Strip. Under 'Arafat's list of priorities, efforts should now be focused on developing a sewage and water infrastructure and resolving the housing problem in the Gaza Strip. Dr. Beilin also conferred with his Tunisian counterpart on bilateral issues, and they will hold a second meeting tomorrow.

Shahal Meets al-Husayni on Orient House Activity

TA1207060294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The battle over the status of Jerusalem continues and, in fact, now it is a cat and mouse game played by Israel and the Palestinians. On the one hand, it is hard to ignore the fact that Orient House became a center for Palestinian political activity more than three years ago. This is the basis of the continued Palestinian activity there. On the other hand, Israel insists that such activity contradicts the agreements signed with the Palestinians. It is no secret that in the territories Orient House is considered the seat of the Palestinian government. Faysal al-Husayni, the minister in charge of Jerusalem in the Palestinian Authority, conducts his activities from there and holds his meetings with foreign diplomats and politicians there.

This is perhaps the reason why Police Minister Moshe Shahal met with Faysal al-Husayni at the beginning of this week and made it clear to him that the prime minister demands that the activities of the Palestinian Authority in East Jerusalem be terminated. As usual, al-Husayni promised that activities by the authority will only be conducted from Jericho and Gaza, in accordance with the agreement. Yesterday, however, al-Husayni and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha met with the Canadian housing minister and discussed Canadian aid to solve housing problems in the territories.

Incidentally, the report on the meeting with the Canadian minister was not made public by the Palestinians, and it appears that this story has gained momentum on its own, which exacerbates the disagreement between the parties regarding the status of Jerusalem

Multilateral Steering Group To Meet in Tabarka

LD1207092894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The city of Tabarka will today and tomorrow host the sixth session of the steering group of the multilateral talks which stemmed from the peace conference on the Middle East. This session is being held for the first time in an Arab country after five sessions held in Moscow, Lisbon, London, then Moscow, and Tokyo. [passage omitted]

Said Mustapha, secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs in charge of Maghreban affairs, will head the Tunisian delegation in the proceedings of the steering group's sixth session which is empowered to supervise the entirety of the peace negotiations in the Middle East region and assess the extent of the progress of the peace process in its bilateral and multilateral dimensions. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 29 Jun

NC0807110394

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Shari'ah Ignored In National Dialogue
2. Conference on Islamic Affairs Criticized
3. Book on Apostasy of Ruler Reviewed
4. Bukhara Chief Imam Interviewed
5. Yemeni Islamic Scholar Interviewed
6. Islam in U.S. Viewed
7. Islam's Views on Insurance, Taxes Noted
8. Writer Criticizes Preachers Examination
9. Revival of Islamic Caliphate Demanded
10. World Islamic News

SHARI'AH IGNORED IN NATIONAL DIALOGUE

On page 1, an approximately 350-word unattributed report laments the absence of Islamic shari'ah and its implementation from the proposals and recommendations of the National Dialogue Preparatory Committee. The committee confined its suggestions to issues relating to political activity and the confrontation of terrorism. The report notes that the "active forces in the Islamic current, including the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic scholars and thinkers," have not been invited to the national dialogue. Instead, the committee picked up 250

figures representing parties, trade unions, parliamentarians, and professors, including professors from al-Azhar University, to take part in the National Dialogue Congress.

CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC AFFAIRS CRITICIZED

'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zurqani writes on page 1 an approximately 700-word report on a conference organized by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization on the denial of rights in Islamic and non-Islamic ideologies held on 16 June at the Journalists Association building in Cairo. Al-Zurqani criticizes Dr. Muhammad Rida Muharram, a professor at al-Azhar University's College of Engineering, who submitted a thesis on "religious hegemony on culture and science." In his paper, Dr. Muharram blasted people obsessed with the idea of involving Islam in economy, business, trade, and even academic life. He added that this hegemony, which results from a religious "obsession" among some people, is one of the most serious acts of denying people their right to knowledge. Al-Zurqani reminds Muharram of numerous Islamic jurisprudence references to such issues as usury, legal contracts, farming, and partnerships, not to mention straightforward Koranic references to political, financial, and other issues touching on daily life. Al-Zurqani adds: "Nobody has claimed that there is an Islamic technology or Islamic experimental sciences. What al-Azhar has stated in the conference on the Islamic orientation of sciences is that these sciences must be steered in an Islamic direction so that they might not be destructive to Islamic culture."

BOOK ON APOSTASY OF RULER REVIEWED

On page 3, Dr. Mahmud Salih al-'Adli, lecturer in criminal law at the Shari'ah College in Tanta, reviews an Islamic book by Dr. Muhammad Ra'fah 'Uthman. In his 2,000-word review, the writer notes that the book deals with three important topics: Promoting the good and preventing vice, revolting against the ruler, and the apostasy of the state. The author notes that promoting the good and preventing vice is a key to reforming any society and a prerogative that God has authorized all Muslims as long as they are qualified for it and well versed in issues of Islamic jurisprudence. This right need not be exercised by all Muslims, that is, if some exercise it, the rest of society will not be required to do the same. Turning to the subject of a revolt against the ruler, the book notes that it is the Muslims' duty to monitor the ruler's actions and advise him if any wrongdoing is noticed. But the entire nation must revolt against a ruler should he become an apostate. With the unanimous approval of the Muslim ulema, a ruler may be sacked if he becomes unfit to rule because of his injustice or if he orders an action prohibited by religion. The writer notes that jurisprudents disagree on whether to take up arms against an unjust ruler. After citing the arguments of those who support and oppose taking up arms against the ruler, he sides with the latter group. The book notes that another source of disagreement among Islamic jurists is whether to revolt against the ruler for not "ruling by what God has ordered." The last subject discussed by the book is the comparison between a state of Islam with one of apostasy. A loose definition of an Islamic state is one in which the majority are Muslims, according to the book's writer. After a thorough examination the writer concludes that all the Islamic countries fit the description of an "Islamic state." Finally, the book's writer demands the implementation of Islamic shari'ah as a religious obligation on Islamic rulers and legislators. He notes that people accused by the state of trying to overthrow the regime say that they are doing so because the state is not implementing shari'ah. By implementing shari'ah rules, the state will refute this claim and deny them the opportunity to do so, he argues.

Concluding his review, al-'Adli notes that Saudi Arabia presents the best model of contemporary Islamic rule.

BUKHARA CHIEF IMAM INTERVIEWED

An approximately 2,000-word interview with Shaykh Mukhtar al-Bukhari, who is identified as chief imam of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, by an unidentified correspondent is published on page 2. In the interview, Shaykh al-Bukhari gives a background to his religious education in Syria and discusses the conditions of the Muslims in his country and in Central Asia following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

YEMENI ISLAMIC SCHOLAR INTERVIEWED

An approximately 2,000-word interview with Yemeni scholar Muhammad Bin-'Ali al-Mansur by an unidentified correspondent appears on page 4. In the interview, al-Mansur discusses the need to apply Islamic-oriented curricula in schools to replace Western-minded textbooks to instill Islamic values and traditions in the young generations.

ISLAM IN U.S. VIEWED

Zakariya Ahmad Nur writes on page 5 an approximately 1,200-word article entitled: "The Diary of a Preacher in the United States." Commenting on a visit to the Islamic center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he notes the "religious freedom" enjoyed in the United States, unlike many other countries. But he claims that unlike freedom under Islam, the U.S. freedom does not make people their own masters; the individual is dominated by materialism and becomes a slave to his own desires. After reviewing activity sponsored by the Albuquerque Islamic center, he notes that there are over six million Muslims in the United States. Muslims in the United States play an important role in acquainting Americans with Islamic culture and countering the negative picture of Islam depicted by the U.S. media, the center head Dr. Majid al-Shinnawi says. Referring to a proselytizing role played by U.S. universities, Nur claims that Muslim students studying in U.S. universities are often encouraged to lead a "sinful" life and abandon their religion. Their admiration for U.S. culture is enhanced and they are encouraged to adopt Western "values." Then they are

"recruited" to become advocates of rapprochement with the United States when they return to their countries.

ISLAM'S VIEWS ON INSURANCE, TAXES NOTED

Two articles on page 4 discuss Islam's views on insurance and taxes. In an approximately 900-word report, Khalid 'Awadallah discusses the Islamic shari'ah's position on insurance. He quotes 'Abd-al-Muttalib 'Abduh, professor of statistics and insurance at al-Azhar University, as saying that the pre-Islam Arabs are known to have devised some sort of insurance. But, he adds, controversy surrounds whether or not an insurance contract is religiously permitted, noting that no decisive ruling on the issue has been made.

Isma'il Dakhili, in an approximately 700-word report on the same page, writes on taxes versus zakah, or alms, in Islamic ideology. He notes that there is a consensus among Islamic jurists that taxes should be imposed on an Islamic society only after zakah obligations are fulfilled. The writer quotes Professor Samir Ramadan saying that the Muslims cannot pay taxes in lieu of zakah, because the latter is an obligation ordered by God, while the first is an obligation ordered by the state. The same professor adds that in line with God's orders to obey God and the rulers, failure by individuals to pay their taxes would be a violation of their obligations toward the state.

WRITER CRITICIZES PREACHERS EXAMINATION

Sayyid 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Maqsud, in an approximately 1,200-word article on page 5, criticizes the decision by the Awqaf Ministry to hold a Koran examination for all preachers, regardless of their years of service or seniority. While acknowledging the importance of memorizing the Koran for preachers to effectively perform their jobs, he argues that the application of the rule to all preachers, even senior ones who are highly qualified for the job, implies that the ministry does not trust its own preachers.

REVIVAL OF ISLAMIC CALIPHATE DEMANDED

In an approximately 3,000-word article on page 8 entitled "The New World Order and Human Rights," Dr. Muhammad al-Masir deplores the unfair treatment of Muslims in several parts of the world and the world community's indifference to their plight. He notes that cries of help by Bosnian Muslims no longer bother humanity, simply because they come from Muslims. After explaining that the new world order is nothing but "a new stage in the Crusades" and that UN resolutions are applied against Muslims only to humiliate them, he states that the humiliation felt by the Islamic nation is the fault of Islamic rulers. Al-Masir adds that to straighten out the course of the new world order, several things must be done. One thing is the need for the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to assume the role of caliphate over the Islamic world and to act as the unified and sole voice of all Muslims. He adds: "We believe that the Islamic Caliphate, brought down by Zionism and the Crusades, could be restored and represented by the country chairing the session of the ICO, which would seek to unify the foreign, economic, educational, media, and military policies of the Islamic nation."

WORLD ISLAMIC NEWS

Several brief, unattributed reports on Islamic news from around the world are published on page 1. An approximately 120-word report notes that several Hindu organizations have stepped up their threats to knock down more mosques in India and build Hindu temples in their place. The newspaper ISLAMIC LEAGUE quotes the head of an "extremist" Hindu group saying that if Muslims in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh do not hand over mosques to Hindus to knock down, his organization will not be responsible for the consequences.

An approximately 70-word report notes that Pakistani authorities have exposed a secret gambling parlor in Islamabad and arrested the people running it.

An approximately 50-word report from the Ivory Coast notes that over 2,000 people have converted to Islam, thanks to the efforts of the Ivory Coast Islamic Culture and Call Society.

A 200-word report from Turkey notes that the mayor of Ankara, who belongs to the Islamic Welfare Party, has decided to remove nude and obscene statues from public places in the city. The report notes that the municipality has knocked down a statue of a nude man and woman in a public square in the capital "to the outrage of secularists and secular newspapers in Turkey."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 5 Jul

NC1107112594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Leader Defends Muslim Brotherhood
2. Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Leader Assails Gaza-Jericho Deal
3. Decision on Headscarf Seen As Aggression on Religion
4. Religious Leader Attacks Christian Writer for Book on Islam
5. Tapped Calls by Detained Islamist Lawyer only Press Remarks

LABOR PARTY LEADER DEFENDS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

AL-SHA'B leads with an approximately 1,000-word report by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid on pages 1 and 5 on the political discussions of the National Dialogue Congress

in which Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri reportedly defended the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. The reporter says that Shukri refuted allegations by some participants that the moderate Islamic trend practices terrorism, and he rebuffed threats to dissolve the Labor Party due to its Islamic policies. Shukri is quoted as saying: "We stick to Islam as a religion and a state and to the Islamic shari'ah as the main source of the law." Shukri attributed terrorism and violence to some young men's belief that the Islamic sharia'h is not being applied and to the state's perceived protection of corruption. He maintained that historically the Muslim Brotherhood has not practiced terrorism. He added: "Some say that the Labor Party defends the Muslim Brotherhood because we want their votes. This is a grave mistake. We have always believed that Islam is the solution and we have been demanding that the Islamic shari'ah be used as the main source of the law." Shukri said the constitution's provision on the application of shari'ah is not being applied and that this is the cause of all the deviations and corruption Egypt is now experiencing. As examples, he noted the state's support for the alcohol industry and protection of gambling under the pretext of encouraging tourism.

DEPUTY MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER ASSAILS GAZA-JERICHO DEAL

In his regular column, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur contributes on page 5 an approximately 1,500 word report about the Palestine question and the Gaza-Jericho deal between Israel and the PLO. He begins by mocking Israel's official ruling that the Hebron mosque massacre was committed by a single man. "Does it stand to reason that a single person could kill such a large number of people and injure many more?" he asks. Mashhur then claims the Palestinians are facing a series of conspiracies and pressures. He notes that the PLO is being forced to change its charter and to offer many other "concessions," so much so "that they have turned the organization into a municipal administration to provide services to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho." Mashhur also notes Israel's attempts to judaize Jerusalem, Israel's failure to release Palestinian prisoners, Israeli's protest over 'Arafat's mere idea of visiting Jerusalem, and the deprivation of millions of Palestinian refugees of their right to return to their homeland. He asks: "Is there a greater humiliation than this? The Zionists are acting as the owners of the land, and the resident Palestinians are being treated as unwanted guests." Surprised that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat accepts all this, Mashhur wonders: "Can he, then, speak for the Palestinians?" He exclaims: "The United States is fully biased toward the enemy, and yet we accept its policy and guidance, even though we see it blocking nuclear weapons of Iraq and North Korea and disregarding the nuclear arsenal of the Zionist enemy."

But Mashhur still has hope: "We hope Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] will invoke the spirit of resistance, noncapitulation, and non-relinquishment of the land under any pressure or temptation, that the banner of resistance will continue to be held high, and that Palestinian children will inherit the spirit of resistance no matter how great the sacrifices."

Mashhur then deplores attempts by some Arab countries "such as Jordan" to conclude separate deals with Israel "under the pretext of writing off their debts or other temptations, in disregard of the interests of other countries." He also criticizes the Arab countries that host Israeli delegations for multilateral talks on water, energy, or other issues.

Finally, Mashhur points out that some Arab countries are harassing and restricting Islamic action. He asks: "Can we link this to the expected normalization with the Zionist enemy, the abolition of the boycott, the establishment of a Middle East market, and other measures in the interest of the enemy? Is this meant to suppress the Islamic opposition to such agreements with the Zionist enemy so that they can be concluded calmly?"

Mashhur says that, in its long history, the Islamic nation has experienced periods of greater weakness but never surrendered. "We call on the peoples to reject all old and new settlement and liquidation agreements, to resist their consequences, and not to yield to the will of the enemy."

DECISION ON HEADSCARF SEEN AS AGGRESSION ON RELIGION

An approximately 2,000-word article by Dr. Ibrahim al-Bayyumi Ghanim on page 12 criticizes a recent decision by the education minister on the use of head covers in intermediate and secondary girl schools. The writer believes the decision, which sets the relevant dress codes and stipulates that families wanting their girls to use it should apply to the ministry, "was specifically designed to curb the spread of Islamic dress in preparatory and secondary girls schools as a prelude to crushing this phenomenon in the universities." The writer, who wonders whether it is the minister's right to make such a decision without referring to the mufti and Muslim scholars, also contends that the decision "is part of a larger task and a more comprehensive plan being implemented to control the Islamic phenomenon before besieging and eliminating it." He adds: "In essence, this policy seeks to eradicate religious inclinations from the early beginnings of the educational process." The writer predicts a "battle" over the decision at the beginning of the school year: "Do you believe, Mr. minister, that your measures will succeed in achieving their objectives? Will parents simply accept your Decision No. 110 and yield to it? No one knows; we have to wait for the upcoming battle over hijab [Islamic dress] at the beginning of the new school year in our preparatory and secondary schools."

RELIGIOUS LEADER ATTACKS CHRISTIAN WRITER FOR BOOK ON ISLAM

In his 400-word "This Is Our Religion" column on page 12, Islamic scholar Muhammad al-Ghazali refers to a

book by Christian writer Murad Wahbah entitled "The Fundamentalist Trend Controls the Media and Dominates Education." In his book, Murad discusses early Muslim thinkers, differentiating between "enlightened" scholars and "fundamentalist" ones. Al-Ghazali refutes the existence of such major differences and says: "I do not know what Murad Wahbah—and he is a Christian who is sincerely serving his Christianity—has got to do with these old issues. What does he mean when he accuses the media and education of being fundamentalist? I do not believe he will be satisfied until a statue of Marx or Lenin is built in one of Cairo's squares and Islam is uprooted."

TAPPED CALLS BY DETAINED ISLAMIST LAWYER ONLY PRESS REMARKS

A 200-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 7 says that the state prosecution listened to recordings of telephone conversations that detained Islamist lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat made and found that they were merely dialogues between al-Zayyat and local and foreign journalists in which he explained his views on current issues and made comments on his detained Islamist clients. Al-Zayyat is being questioned on his alleged liaison role between leaders of the Islamic Group abroad and its members in Egypt.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Wife Suha Tawil Travel to Egypt, Gaza Stop in Cairo

NC1107203094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, his wife Suha Tawil, and a number of Palestinian officials arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on their way to Gaza.

'Arafat was received at the airport by Dr. Muhammad Zaki Abu-'Amir, minister of state for People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo. He was also received by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian minister of development and international cooperation; and Muhammad Subayh, permanent representative of Palestine to the Arab League.

On his arrival in Cairo, 'Arafat expressed his thanks and appreciation to Egypt—president, government, and people—for their great efforts toward the Palestinian issue and toward the peace process.

Asked whether there are urgent programs that must be implemented in the autonomous areas, 'Arafat said: There are intensive programs to repair the Palestinian infrastructure in the autonomous areas destroyed by the Israeli occupation authorities. He noted that the reconstruction process will start from square one.

He added: We are still awaiting the promised financial aid for the Palestinian National Authority from the Arab and Western states so that we can stand on our own feet, implement the development program, and improve the living standards of the Palestinians.

Arrive in Gaza Strip

TA1207073894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Gaza Strip a few minutes ago. Crossing the border from Egypt, 'Arafat did not go through the Rafah border crossing, but took an alternate route. At this time, his convoy is on its way to Gaza City, 'Arafat's new place of residence.

Hamas Official Criticizes 'Arafat Gaza Trip

NC1207065094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 5 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by 'Ali Jamalu in Damascus]

[Excerpts] The representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—in Damascus, Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, has described Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Gaza as humiliating. He said the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories are living in a state of tragedy and bitterness.

Abu-Muhammad Mustafa informed AL-SAFIR that the limited reception 'Arafat received in Gaza, in terms of the number of Palestinians there, indicates the real popular Palestinian stance. He also noted that the absence of demonstrations against 'Arafat's visit shows that the Palestinian citizen is aware and accepts the right of every Palestinian to return to his homeland. [passage omitted]

Asked about the declaration by the Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine on a formula for accord today, the Islamic official welcomed the formula as a beginning to unite all the Palestinian rejectionist forces.

Abu-Muhammad Mustafa neither denied nor confirmed reports about the participation of the two fronts in elections in the autonomy areas. He pointed out that there is still a coalition of the two fronts and the rest of the factions that reject the Oslo Agreement.

He denied that Hamas has left the Palestinian national alliance. He said: We will be the last to leave because we are the nucleus of confrontation, the conscience of the nation, and the Palestinian people's reference, especially as this reference was lost after the Oslo Agreement and after the PLO abandoned its Charter and the reasons for which it was established.

Abu-Muhammad Mustafa discussed the recent meeting between the Hamas leadership and Syrian officials. He said this meeting took place at the request of Hamas. It was very beneficial and we exchanged viewpoints during this meeting. The movement expressed its appreciation

of the firm Syrian stance in the current decisive stage. The Syrian leadership also praised Hamas' firm stance in confronting this agreement.

Answering a question, Abu-Muhammad Mustafa ruled out a confrontation between Hamas and the PLO. He said: We in the movement are cautious, now in particular, not to get dragged into any fighting or conflict with the Palestinian National Authority or police because that would be in the interests of Israel, which wants to throttle the intifadah.

Gazans 'Absolutely Astonished' by Israel Closure

TA1107105494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by David Regev]

[Text] Palestinian Authority leaders and Gazans were absolutely astonished by the order issued by Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, to place the Gaza Strip under closure as of this morning. At this point, the closure will remain in effect for 24 hours.

The Israeli move came after thousands of laborers went on a rampage early yesterday morning at the Erez terminal as they were waiting to depart for work in Israel. Two Israeli officers and a soldier were lightly injured in the disturbance.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that thousands of Palestinian laborers began arriving at the Erez terminal in the early hours of the evening and proceeded to throw all sorts of objects at the security troops. A military source noted that the mob trampled over the fences, and at least 3,000 of them crossed the terminal into Israel without undergoing any checks.

Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip deny that hhe events unfolded as described by the IDF spokesman. According to them, the IDF imposed the closure for an unspecified reason. They noted that there had been more serious rioting at the terminal in the past which did not trigger a closure on the Gaza Strip.

Israel Police sources confirmed yesterday that what happened at the terminal was a local disturbance of unexceptional dimensions.

Opposition To Oppose National Charter Amendment

JN1107140894 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 11 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that a series of sessions, contacts, and meetings are currently under way among several forces, factions, Palestine National Council [PNC] members, and Palestinian political and academic figures to make extensive popular moves that could produce a general national conference in order to protect the Palestinian National Charter from 'Arafat's attempts at annulment, which might take the form of calling the PNC into session to revoke all the provisions of the charter that assail Zionism or mention the goal of liberation.

Reliable sources informed AL-MAJD that the next few days will see preemptive actions and objections by several Palestinian forces and personalities on several Arab and foreign scenes to thwart 'Arafat's plans, and frustrate his calls to convene a new PNC session in Gaza sometime next month. This session is meant to revoke the articles and provisions of the charter detested by the Israeli enemy in compliance with Israeli dictates. These articles and provisions run counter to 'Arafat's recognition of Israel's right to exist on Palestinian soil.

For its part, AL-MAJD asked lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, PNC member and member of the PLO Central Council who is leading the opposition to these moves by 'Arafat, about what would remain of the National Charter once it is amended in accordance with Israeli conditions. He said, with enormous pain, that nothing of significance would remain, particularly since the articles of the National Charter mostly underscore opposition to Zionism, resistance to its aggression on Palestine, as well as the historical rights of Arabs and Muslims, including the Palestinian people, to claim Palestinian territory and its holy shrines.

In a related development, AL-MAJD has learned that 'Arafat, acting PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, and PNC Secretary Muhammad Subayh will shortly begin efforts to convene a new PNC session to be attended by 150 PNC members from the occupied territories, as well as the pro-'Arafat PNC members living in Jordan and Egypt to ensure a quorum, which is two thirds of the PNC members as stipulated by the Charter. The session will be in order to amend the Charter to appease Israel and expand the self-rule areas so that Nabulus, Ramallah, and Hebron may become self-governing localities.

The reliable sources informed AL-MAJD that the Israeli Government has set the condition of amending the National Charter and revoking its most important provisions for expanding self-rule and holding legislative elections there.

Opposition Figures on Autonomy, Elections

JN0807121194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 20

[Text] Amman, London—QUDS PRESS—A Palestinian figure who is opposed to the autonomy agreement has hinted that preliminary moves are under way among Palestinian forces and figures to proclaim a new Palestinian front to confront the autonomy agreement.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian negotiating team at the Middle East peace talks with Israel, told QUDS PRESS that he is holding consultations with Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, an official of the Palestinian People's (formerly Communist) Party, and others to discuss the requirements for Palestinian action at this stage.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that "there is talk about a democratic group" but added that the consultations in which leftist Palestinian forces opposed to the autonomy are participating "have so far not crystallized into anything." He stressed that the Palestinian masses must come up with a unified stand to face challenges.

'Abd-al-Shafi, who resigned from the negotiating team in protest against the Declaration of Principles, said that he intends to participate in the autonomy elections "provided that they are legislative elections and not elections for a council to supervise the implementation of the agreement."

'Abd-al-Shafi warned against Israel's intransigence concerning the preservation of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said: "I do not imagine that the Israelis will abandon their settlements in the final phase of negotiations." 'Abd-al-Shafi added that the presence of the settlers in the West Bank is "interconnected with the Arab presence," thus creating difficulties in implementing the Israeli withdrawal from the remainder of the West Bank. However, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "the Israelis might soon withdraw from Nabulus, Ramallah, Janin, and Tulkarm, just as they did in Gaza Strip, where they still maintain a presence." 'Abd-al-Shafi added that "we cannot overestimate what has happened" and described the implementation of the autonomy in accordance with the agreement as establishing "Arab cantons under Israeli domination," as he put it.

On another level, Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said that his movement "does not consider meetings in Gaza and Jericho (in the wake of the arrival of the Palestinian authority president, Yasir 'Arafat) as a popular vote." In a telephone interview with QUDS PRESS, Ibrahim Ghawshah said that Hamas "supports a free and fair election inside and outside [the Palestinian territories] in order to clarify the stands of the Palestinian people and the map of the political forces and so that the majority and minority are made apparent."

Ibrahim Ghawshah stressed that "the numbers which came out into the streets of Gaza and Jericho did not exceed 30,000 and 5,000 respectively and were not a strong indicator or a show of a majority of support for the autonomy." He said that his movement succeeded in mobilizing greater numbers during popular rallies and that 70,000 Palestinians recently participated in a funeral of a Hamas activist who was killed by the occupied authorities in Gaza. Ibrahim Ghawshah said that "when Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is released, you will be able to compare Yasir 'Arafat's reception with the reception that will be accorded to the Hamas leader, who is currently in an Israeli jail."

Ghawshah renewed his movement's commitment to boycotting any elections in the autonomous areas unless they are legislative elections. He said that Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a Hamas leader in Gaza, "spoke about legislative elections inside and outside—elections that have nothing to do with the autonomy."

Bahr the day before yesterday said that his movement was prepared to participate in Palestinian elections under certain conditions.

Commenting on press reports and analyses disseminated by certain media on the Hamas Movement's position on the 4 May 1994 agreement and the self-rule authority, a responsible source at the Hamas Movement said the following yesterday:

—The movement reiterates its rejection of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and all that might result from it. It also reaffirms its rejection of internecine fighting and reserves the right to oppose the agreement on the political and popular levels and with all available means.

—Hamas emphasizes its previous call for legislative elections inside and outside the occupied territories in order to elect real Palestinian representatives and defend the Palestinian people's full rights to their national soil.

The Movement draws attention to the fact that this position has nothing to do with the self-rule elections, which will be held in accordance with the illegitimate Gaza-Jericho accord. In order to enable the Palestinian people to hold real representational elections, occupation should end, settlements should be dismantled, and all the Palestinian people, both in Palestine and the diaspora, should take part in them.

— Hamas reaffirms that it will not participate in the self-rule council elections and that this position is nonnegotiable regardless of all offers or mediations.

—The movement adheres to its right to resist occupation wherever it exists. It also calls on the Palestinian authority and police not to restrain or attack the mujahidin because they are defending their people's legitimate right. Regarding the details of the jihad activities, only those official statements issued by the movement or by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, its military wing, will be considered. All other statements conflicting with them will not reflect the movement's opinion.

'Ashrawi To Investigate Death of Gaza Detainee

TA1207060994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] More than 40 Palestinians are currently being held in detention in the Palestinian Shin Bet cellars on suspicion of cooperating with Israel. Palestinian sources in Gaza and Jericho reported last night that Jibril al-Rujub's and Muhammad Dahlan's men are interrogating the detainees using methods they employed when they still were members of the Fatah Hawks or Black

Panther squads. They torture and beat the detainees whose screams can be heard at night outside the detention facilities.

The recent wave of detentions in Rafah of people suspected of cooperating with Israel, and the fact that Farid Jarbu' died of beatings by his interrogators, caused a storm and yielded grave criticism by the Palestinian elite in the territories. Harsh questions were directed at the heads of the Palestinian Shin Bet, and demands were made that the circumstances and manner of the detention of Palestinian residents, their legal rights regarding attorneys, the duration of detention before trial, and other matters pertaining to human rights in the territories be anchored in law.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, head of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, was shocked by this grave phenomena and is going to Gaza this morning to investigate the three Palestinian interrogators who were themselves detained after Jarbu' died. Dr. 'Ashrawi will also meet Yasir 'Arafat who arrives in Gaza today. She will raise the issue of human rights in the territories with him.

There is no doubt that the death of Jarbu' will serve as a test case for the activities of human rights associations in Palestinian society. It will be interesting to watch the way the heads of the Palestinian self-government deal with demands that human rights be observed. Similar demands have also been made of the Israeli military government in the territories.

Japan Gives Aid to Palestinian Police Corps

NC1107170394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—The Japanese Government has donated 9,000 uniforms to the Palestinian police corps, which is currently made up of 4,000 policemen.

A press statement released by the Japanese Embassy in Cairo said that this donation is part of the Japanese aid to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

It is worth noting that the Japanese Government recently decided to earmark U.S. $10 million for the Palestinian police units and U.S. $250,000 for the purchase of computers. Japan also donated U.S. $20 million as part of the UN aid program. This amount represents part of Japan's aid for the reconstruction of the area.

Abie Nathan Donates Radio Equipment to Palestinians

JN1207102994 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Amman, 12 Jul (WAKH)—Basim Abu-Sumayyah, director of the Palestinian radio in Jericho, has said that Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan has donated the equipment of his radio station "Voice of Peace," which was shut down after a peace agreement was reached between the Palestinians and Israelis, to the Palestinian radio.

Abu-Sumayyah said the equipment, worth about $100,000, will be transferred to Gaza to set up a studio for the production of radio programs, in addition to the Jericho radio studio.

Algeria

Italian Embassy Attacked; Four People Killed

LD1207111094 Paris La Chaine Info Television in French 1030 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] There has been a new terrorist attack in Algeria. Our correspondent Maurice Olivari has just reported that the Italian Embassy in Algiers has been attacked. First reports indicate that two policemen and two terrorists were killed in the attack. This latest incident comes after yesterday's deadly actions in which 11 people were killed in several incidents.

Further Details on Attack

LD1207114894 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1100 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Four more people, after the 14 foreigners killed in the past 4 days, have been killed in Algiers. This brings the total to 51 since last September. Algerian terrorism is on the offensive. A shoot-out took place in front of the Italian Embassy. The terrorists attacked the officers who were standing on guard: two Algerian policemen and two terrorists were killed. The situation is getting more and more difficult for the 650 Italians working there. Sandro Petrone reports:

[Petrone] Terror and death happened in front of the Italian Embassy's gate in Algiers. There has been an attack by Islamic fundamentalists, which confirms their intention to spread the conflict. At 0915, three terrorists got out of a van in the hills of El Biar, near the Italian Embassy, which is also close to the Spanish Consulate, where people were queing up for a passport visa. The three attacked a car of the gendarmerie 20 meters from the entrance to the Italian Embassy. There was a violent shoot-out, in which 2 policemen were killed and another was wounded. They held out long enough to allow other patrols to intervene. The terrorists fled—1 was arrested and 2 more were killed shortly later during the pursuit.

Italian Ambassador in Algiers Patrizio Schmidlin said that the attack was not aimed at our Embassy, and that the gendarmerie's car was not guarding the Italian Embassy. The Embassy is defended by 6 Tuscania carabinieri. However, the suspicion that Italians were once again the target after the death of 7 seamen in the past few days still lingers.

Yugoslavs, Nationals Killed in 'Terrorist' Attack

LD1107202394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2001 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Jul (TANJUG)—According to the Yugoslav Embassy in Algiers, Dole Jaksic, an employee of Hidrotehnika of Belgrade, and Milorad Langovic, an employee of Geosonde-Beograd, were killed in today's terrorist attack in a restaurant in Algeria.

The attack occurred during a business luncheon, and two officials of the Algerian firm Kosider were also killed.

Hidrotehnika Director General Simeon Nakov was slightly injured, while two other Hidrotehnika employees, Dusan Dosen and Zarko Markovic, were unharmed.

Studio B this evening broadcast a statement by Rados Gavrilovic, a representative of the Minel export-import company, who said that the assailants wore police uniforms.

Government Expresses Regret

LD1107215394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2131 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Algiers, 11 Jul (TANJUG)—Following today's terrorist attack in Algiers in which two Yugoslav citizens were killed, Yugoslav Ambassador Dragomir Vucicevic was asked to pass on expressions of deep regret and condolences by the Algerian Government to the Yugoslav Government and the victims' families. [passage omitted]

Sifi Sends Condolences for Deaths of Foreign Nationals

LD1107202494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The security services have announced that five foreign nationals were assassinated—four Russians and one Romanian. They were murdered by gunfire this morning near the tunnel of Oued Ouchayeh in the eastern district of the capital. [passage omitted]

After the assassination of the seven foreign nationals today in Algiers, the head of government, Mr. Mokdad Sifi, sent messages of condolence to his Russian, Romanian, and Yugoslav counterparts. The head of government stressed that Algeria strongly condemns this barbaric operation and remains determined to pursue and punish the perpetrators of this crime.

The head of government renewed Algeria's commitment to the protection of all foreign nationals whose noble mission is reflected in the service of cooperation between nations.

Interior Minister Condemns Assassination of Russians

LD1107112594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Abderrahmane [Meziane] Cherif has strongly condemned the assassination this morning of five Russian nationals near Oued Ouchayeh tunnel, east of the capital. In a statement published today, the interior minister expressed his deep sympathies to the families of the victims, and affirmed that this crime will not pass without the punishment of its perpetrators. [passage omitted]

Two 'High-Ranking Officials' Killed

NC1107211194 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Algiers, July 11 (AFP)—Two high-ranking Algerian officials were shot dead Monday [11 July], the security services announced, in the wake of other attacks in which nine people died earlier in the day.

Mohamed Bekkouche, director of the national veterinary college (ENV), was assassinated inside the establishment in the eastern suburbs of Algiers while Ouramdane Amokrane, general director of the national professional training and equipment agency, was shot in Birkhadem south of the capital.

FIS Leader Calls On West To Impose Sanctions

BR1107140394 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 10 Jul 94 p 9

[Interview with FIS Chairman Rafah Kebir by Stefano Citati; place and date not given: "If You Help Us, We Will Halt Terrorists"—first paragraph is LA REPUBBLICA introduction]

[Text] Rome—"We will step up the pressure on the isolated groups of terrorists as soon as there is a proper dialogue with the regime." Rafah Kebir, 38, is chairman—in exile—of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. From Germany, the country that granted him political asylum, he renewed his condolences to the Rome government over the "terrorist attack" at Djendjen, which "shocked" him.

[Citati] Why an attack on Italians?

[Kebir] We have nothing against Italy. Historically, we have never had problems with you; and indeed there are excellent friendly relations. The Muslims had nothing to gain from such an attack. I believe that, precisely at the time of the G-7 summit, the regime wanted yet again to make us appear like barbarians by blaming the FIS for the murders and thus discrediting it.

[Citati] But there are terrorist groups that have already attacked foreigners in Algeria—and not only foreigners...

[Kebir] That is true. There are groups that are not easy to control that are continuing the civil war. We are not always able to stop them. It is also likely that some nuclei of extremists are being manipulated by the regime. Be that as it may, I think it would have been impossible for the assailants to enter the port without the police knowing about it. We do not need violence. In any case, we could step up the pressure on the isolated terrorists if the regime is able to engage in a direct dialogue and to stop denigrating us.

[Citati] Do you think that the G-7 who met in Naples can help to resolve the crisis in your country?

[Kebir] The situation in Algeria is rapidly deteriorating. This is why we are asking the West to exert pressure to restore order and to ensure that a dialogue is established with Algiers, since hitherto it has proved impossible to do anything...

[Citati] Is this why you are in favor of sanctions?

[Kebir] Definitely. Economic sanctions must go hand in hand with politics in order to achieve a result.

[Citati] In the past you also experienced ideological obstacles in your relations with the West. Could this prevent you from organizing an open dialogue with the states that are supposed to facilitate talks with Algiers?

[Kebir] For years we were denigrated by the Algerian media, and that harmed us. There was a great deal of ignorance about our cause in your country too. Now many have tried to understand who we are, to establish direct relations with our political movement, which has been recognized. The ignorance has been resolved. Now there is a political will to improve the situation.

Foreign Minister Receives Italian Parliamentarian

LD0907201394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri today received Mirko Tremarglia, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

After the reception, Mirko Tremarglia gave the following statement:

[Begin Tremarglia recording, in Italian fading to Arabic translation] The meeting was very important and necessary. I have come to Algeria to meet all the Italian workers who contribute by offering their help to Algeria, and who should be allowed to live in peace, security, and safety.

These are moments of grief and sadness for the Italian and Algerian peoples. All forms of terrorism should be isolated, and we strongly condemn the savage acts which have exceeded all limits.

The investigation into the collective assassination is continuing, and we hope that the culprits will be arrested.

Concerning the handling of the international situation, the Italian authorities are assured of the existence of a will inside the Algerian Government to achieve stability in the country. [end recording]

Zeroual Receives French Parliamentary Delegation

LD0907193194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] The head of state, Liamine Zeroual, today received a French parliamentary delegation, led by Xavier de Villepin, chairman of the foreign affairs, defense, and armed forces committee. The meeting was

attended by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, and Mehoub Mehoubi, diplomatic affairs adviser and the official presidency spokesman.

After the meeting, Xavier de Villepin gave the following statement to correspondent Abdekader Jreidi:

[Begin recording] [De Villepan, in French fading to Arabic translation] We were very pleased to meet your president. He aroused admiration in us for highlighting the adopted policy in the face of the painful events taking place in Algeria, and for his concern to consolidate the friendly relations with France. He has entrusted us with a private message to the president of our republic, to our prime minister, and to our foreign affairs minister.

[Jredi] Are you satisfied with your visit to Algeria?

[De Villepin] I have not kept our worries secret from some of you concerning our citizens living here in very difficult conditions, but I can say that we will leave with an impression marked with trust, because your country is being administrated with courage. [end recording]

Zeroual Pardons Prisoners for Independence Day

LD0907133694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] The head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, has issued an amnesty decree on the occasion of the 32d anniversary of the recovery of national sovereignty. The decree, which follows a proposal made by the justice minister, grants amnesty to a number of prisoners who have not been involved in cases linked to crimes of terrorism, subversion, and attempts to undermine the security of the state. People sentenced to three months imprisonment will also see their sentences lifted; this would allow the release of 800 prisoners.

The decree also includes reductions in jail sentences ranging from four to seven months.

Out of his desire to continue this tradition which embodies the high values stemming from the depth of our revolution and authenticity, the head of state also reaffirms the strict application of the law in order to protect rights, freedoms and property and not to be tolerant toward anyone who, with their actions, dare try to undermine the tranquillity and safety of the citizens and harm the state institutions and installations.

Egypt

Mubarak on 'Arafat, Terror, Yemen, Rwanda

BR1107113894 Paris LE FIGARO in French 11 Jul 94 p 4

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Pierre Rousselin in Burg al-Arab; date not given: "Husni Mubarak: 'If 'Arafat Disappeared, Chaos Would Ensue'"—first paragraph is LE FIGARO introduction]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Paris last night for a 24-hour visit, during which he will speak with Francois Mitterrand about the Middle East peace process and the situation in Rwanda. On the eve of this visit, Mr. Mubarak received LE FIGARO in his summer residence in Burg al-Arab, on the Mediterranean coast near Alexandria.

[Rousselin] You are coming to Paris at an important time for peace in the Middle East, hot on the heels of 'Arafat, Rabin, and Peres. Negotiations are due to start again today in Cairo, now that Yasir 'Arafat has returned to Gaza and Jericho. You have contributed much to these negotiations. What is you personal role?

[Mubarak] The question is not just of my personal role, but of Egypt's role. It was Egypt that laid the way open [by signing the peace agreement with Israel in 1978—LE FIGARO editor's note]. We are helping both sides bridge the gap separating them. For example, 'Arafat asked me, in March 1993, to tell Rabin that they also needed to talk about Jericho, not just Gaza. The secret talks between Israelis and Palestinians had started in Oslo in December 1992, but they were not at that time discussing Gaza. At the Ismailia meeting (in April 1993), the Israeli prime minister finally agreed. Negotiations continued in Oslo until August 1993, and then the declaration of principles was agreed, and later signed in Washington. Finally, on 4 May, in Cairo, the agreement on the Israeli retreat from Gaza and Jericho was signed. That was difficult. I worked on that myself. The final days, before 4 May, were terrible.

[Rousselin] On 4 May, the whole world could see on TV the problems you had convincing Yasir 'Arafat to sign the agreement. How did you react?

[Mubarak] I was really put out, because all the points had been decided on at dawn. We talked until three in the morning, and the issue that proved a problem when it came to actually signing the agreement, the extent of Jericho, was already agreed. I could not understand it. However, you could always expect last minute problems. This is such a complicated business!

[Rousselin] Were you afraid that everything would collapse?

[Mubarak] No, I was not afraid of that. Nor, however, was I pleased with the turn events were taking. We suggested that an accompanying letter guarantee that the disputed points be negotiated after the signing. 'Arafat accepted that. It only took three or four minutes. You can find excuses for 'Arafat: Certain factions are opposed to the peace process. These things can happen.

[Rousselin] You accompanied 'Arafat to the Gaza border on the day of his return. What did you say to him by way of encouragement?

[Mubarak] He was in a state of shock, like someone who fears an injection and then realizes, as the needle is going

in, that it is nothing. I told him there was nothing to be concerned about, and that he would be well received by his people.

[Rousselin] Above all, you advised moderation?

[Mubarak] I told him to speak in a language suited to his new situation.

[Rousselin] You also gave him an Egyptian Army helicopter so that he could go to Jericho...

[Mubarak] Initially he had no plans to go there. I told him he should go. He told me that it was a problem overflying Israel. I told him: "Don't worry, I'll send you a helicopter."

[Rousselin] What do you think of 'Arafat's behavior now he has returned to Gaza and Jericho?

[Mubarak] You have to realize that it is easier to control an organization that has no territory, like the PLO was previously. Returning to his homeland, 'Arafat finds himself confronted with the problems of the population. Everyone needs water, food, healthcare, electricity, and housing. He has to deal with these problems. The international community should help him.

[Rousselin] You are the one who has given him the most help. Why?

[Mubarak] We are trying to help him because we want him to succeed. If 'Arafat disappeared, chaos would ensue. Faction fighting would start up again. You would have to start everything again from scratch. We must realize that 'Arafat is currently the man best suited to the job. Of course, like every leader who takes his country in hand, he will have his problems. 'Arafat needs the help of the international community.

[Rousselin] Is the international community doing enough to help 'Arafat?

[Mubarak] No, it is not doing enough. It should give him more support. This has been going on for 50 years now. How much effort has been put into negotiations? How many human lives have been lost? How much money have the Americans and Europeans spent so far? Now, 'Arafat has returned to his country, peace is being established, and people are starting to return. We must support him! We must help him so that he can hold out and dispel the tension in this part of the world.

[Rousselin] Will you speak about this issue with President Mitterrand?

[Mubarak] Yes. I will talk to everyone about it.

[Rousselin] Last week you received King Husayn of Jordan. He does not seem to be very pleased about the way these discussions between Palestinians and Israelis are going...

[Mubarak] It is not a question of whether or not he is happy with things. The problem is the peace process. Will he continue to negotiate? He is ready to continue now. I asked him if he would meet with Mr. Rabin. He replied: "Yes, of course."

[Rousselin] Will there soon be a Husayn-Rabin summit?

[Mubarak] They have already met several times. This time, however, King Husayn will meet with Mr. Rabin in public.

[Rousselin] Things seems to be more difficult with Syria...

[Mubarak] There are problems concerning the Golan Heights and other issues. However, the Syrian president is very flexible, and we hope there will be flexibility on the other side, too. I have always said that peace will only come through negotiation.

[Rousselin] Do you think we ever will see the Israeli flag flying over Damascus as it does over Cairo? Is President al-Asad prepared for that?

[Mubarak] I think he should accept it. If we succeed in achieving a peace agreement, there will be a flag there. Initially, everyone was very nervous, but that is quite normal.

[Rousselin] Syria wants to be sure that it will get back the Golan heights, and Israel wants to be sure it will get peace. How can we break this vicious circle?

[Mubarak] Both sides have lacked confidence. With the help of the Americans, the gap has been narrowed slightly, but it still exists.

[Rousselin] Where Egypt is concerned, it took weeks at Camp David before a peace treaty was agreed on. Do you think the Americans are doing enough to help both sides come to an agreement?

[Mubarak] President al-Sadat took the decision to go to Jerusalem without the Americans or anyone else asking him to do so. He was a very brave man. He made a breakthrough without which it would have been very difficult to convene the Madrid conference...

[Rousselin] Should President al-Asad take a military initiative?

[Mubarak] Thanks to President al-Sadat, Syrians and Israelis alike have already succeeded in meeting in Madrid.

[Rousselin] When will you go to Jerusalem?

[Mubarak] That does not pose any problem for me. However, I do not want to do anything that could complicate things or encourage certain people to abandon the main principle, and create problems elsewhere. I am not afraid of that (Jerusalem—LE FIGARO editor's note), but I am afraid for the peace process. They will say: "Ah, Mubarak has gone there. That must mean..." There will be complications. I want the peace process to continue. I must be very prudent and take

great care in any initiative I take. However, I do meet with Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres, and everyone else.

[Rousselin] What do think of Mr. Rabin?

[Mubarak] He is a very prudent man, but he is a decisionmaker and is very frank. He keeps his promises.

[Rousselin] Will you soon be going to meet with 'Arafat in Gaza or in Jericho?

[Mubarak] I will go when the time is right. That poses no problem.

[Rousselin] Egypt's experience shows that peace is possible when the Jewish colonies are evacuated. Do you think that a settlement could be reached that would see the colonists remaining in the West Bank and Gaza?

[Mubarak] When we negotiated the Camp David agreement and looked at the Palestinian issue, there were only 48 small colonies in all of the occupied territories. Now there are almost 180 large colonies. That will be the biggest obstacle to future negotiations. However, I think a settlement can be found. I believe that certain colonists will not want to stay close to Palestinians. Rabin and 'Arafat will have to find a solution, and we will help them as much as we can.

[Rousselin] In the peace process, are you an advisor, and intermediary, or a mediator?

[Mubarak] I am a combination of all of those things maybe.

[Rousselin] What do you say when you meet 'Arafat, King Husayn, and President al-Asad?

[Mubarak] I tell them that our experience shows us that we must live in the real world. We must not live in an imaginary world or in a world of dreams. One must be pragmatic.

[Rousselin] With the return of 'Arafat, will reality gain the upper hand over symbols?

[Mubarak] The presence of 'Arafat in Gaza and Jericho and the manner in which the Palestinians will behave should reassure Israeli public opinion, and open up the way for much more positive negotiations.

[Rousselin] In your struggle against the Islamic extremists, do you believe that the hardest part is behind you?

[Mubarak] Yes. The problem began with the return of Islamic soldiers from Afghanistan. Perhaps the former interior minister did not do all he should have done. Today, we are attacking the problem with great determination, in accordance with the law, and the difficulties we are encountering are diminishing quite considerably.

[Rousselin] Has the battle been won?

[Mubarak] We must not fall sleep. There are fundamentalists everywhere, not just in Egypt. We must watch out, because all these problems took root in an international context.

[Rousselin] Will the solution of the Palestinian problem help to reduce the fundamentalist threat?

[Mubarak] That is one factor. It will enable us to ease the tension. For in the occupied territories and Jordan there are also problems with the fundamentalists.

[Rousselin] When you call upon the world to support 'Arafat, do you do so also because of the threat that the Islamic extremists represent?

[Mubarak] Of course! And it is not only the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that will be affected. Nor just Egypt. Europe is not far away. We must help 'Arafat, enabling him to construct his country and restore hope to his people again. Otherwise, the Palestinians will all become fundamentalists.

[Rousselin] Returning to the situation in Egypt, having rocked fundamentalist terrorists back on their heels, it would appear that you are now seeking to reduce the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Mubarak] It is an illegal organization. The Muslim Brotherhood caused problems during the 1940's. After the revolution, al-Nasir took very firm measures against them. Al-Sadat did the same thing.

[Rousselin] So, having attempted conciliation, you—just like your predecessors—are now constrained to showing greater resolve...

[Mubarak] I have not changed. By nature, I am somebody with great resolve and who respects the law. When I came to power, President al-Sadat had just been assassinated. I tried to conduct a dialogue with those who had committed this act of terrorism, at a time when they resorted to the use of machine guns. Back then, I had to show my resolve.

[Rousselin] Do you regret having been too tolerant at the outset?

[Mubarak] No, in politics problems must be treated in several different ways at once. We had to offer them a dialogue. However, absolutely nothing came of this.

[Rousselin] Some Islamic fundamentalists claim that you now have more than 20,000 political prisoners in Egypt...

[Mubarak] No. All those who are in prison have committed crimes. We have never imprisoned anyone because of their opinions or for political reasons. They say 20,000 prisoners? That is impossible. We would never have enough room for them. Perhaps we have 2,000 fundamentalists in prison, but they are there as a result of a decision taken by the courts.

[Rousselin] How do you view the situation in Yemen following the victory of the North Yemeni forces?

[Mubarak] The problem has not been resolved. Indeed, it is only just beginning to take shape. Since force was used—blood flowed, infrastructures were destroyed—this will arouse the anger of the population of South Yemen. On several occasions I urged them to negotiate, but the Yemeni president refused to meet with his opposite number. So the problem has not been settled. It is impossible to use force to impose unity.

[Rousselin] Why did you not help the South more or recognize the regime in Aden?

[Mubarak] We sent humanitarian aid. However, for us to recognize the regime there had to be a genuine government, and the pillars of an independent country had to be in place. They wanted us to recognize them so that we could send in troops. I was not prepared to send in a single soldier.

[Rousselin] What external influences have contributed to the conflict?

[Mubarak] Some countries did help the South. Had they listened to me right at the start, I would have met with them in order to encourage them to try and settle their differences by searching for another form of unity. However, the North refused. The South seceded without having examined the question in sufficient detail.

[Rousselin] Why did the North react so vigorously?

[Mubarak] Because of the oil fields in the South. Everywhere, oil is the root of conflicts. Look at what happened in Kuwait.

[Rousselin] Is Iran trying to impose its influence on Sanaa?

[Mubarak] I cannot say. One must be sure before claiming such a thing.

[Rousselin] How do you view the French intervention in Rwanda?

[Mubarak] I believe the French want to help the Rwandans reach a peaceful solution. I do not think that the French will fight alongside one particular faction or another. Under these conditions, I agree with them. We, too, are going to send observers to Rwanda.

[Rousselin] Is French intervention not the result of a failure on the part of the OAU and the United Nations?

[Mubarak] Yes, that is true. The United Nations did not succeed. The OAU lacks the resources. Money is needed to send in troops.

[Rousselin] There is an Egyptian contingent in Somalia. Do you envision sending troops to Rwanda?

[Mubarak] Not troops, observers. In Somalia, we have peacekeeping troops. We cannot have troops everywhere.

[Rousselin] No doubt you will raise these issues with President Mitterrand and the French Government?

[Mubarak] We have excellent relations with both the president and the government. We have many friends in Paris—President Mitterrand, [Prime Minister] Edouard Balladur, and [Rally for the Republic leader] Jacques Chirac. Our bilateral relations pose no problem whatsoever. So above all we will discuss the situation in the Near East and in Africa.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo for Self-Rule Areas

NC1207073294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning for his permanent headquarters in the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat, accompanied by his wife and several Palestinian leaders, arrived in Cairo last night en route from Tunis to Gaza. The Palestinian president said there are intense programs to rebuild the infrastructure in the autonomous areas destroyed by the occupation authorities.

Policemen Injured While Searching Houses

NC1107132894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry stated today that while a police force from the Suhaj Security Directorate was searching some furnished apartments in the city, it came under a hail of bullets from an apartment in a building next to the one where the search was being conducted. The source added that a police noncommissioned officer, a corporal, and a police cadet were all injured in the left thigh and taken to the hospital for treatment. Senior security officials and laboratory experts went to the scene of the incident.

After identifying and examining the place where fire came from in the neighboring building, the same source added, security men found 31 9-mm bullets, some personal effects belonging to the assailants, and a 9-mm used shell case. Policemen are conducting a search of the area to arrest the assailants.

'Terrorist' Killed Following Shoot-Out With Police

NC1107133394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Terrorist Hamadah Sayf al-Qadi was killed early this morning after a shoot out

with security men who went to arrest him at his hideout near Dayr al-Janadilah, on the western mountain of Asyut.

An Interior Ministry responsible source has explained that information was received that terrorist al-Qadi was the one who had killed Major 'Antar Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hafiz, an officer in al-Wadi al-Jadid Security Directorate, in front of his home in al-Sahrij village two night ago. The same terrorist had taken part in attacks against trains, the attack on the Dayr al-Muharraq Monastery in al- Qusiyah, and the murder of sentries in Bani Qurrah village.

Based on this information, a force from the Criminal Investigation, Public Security, and State Security Intelligence Departments, backed up by Central Security Forces, stormed the hideout of the terrorist, who opened fire first. After an exchange of fire, he was killed.

The same source added that an automatic rifle and organizational documents containing the names of some security, local, and executive leaders in Suhaj were found with the terrorist.

Former Terrorists Accuse Saudis of Funding Jihad

NC1007185794 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 6 Jul 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[Text] Penitent terrorists Ahmad Rashid and Hasan al-Hillawi have disclosed the Saudi role in funding and supporting terrorism, under the pretext of backing religious fatwas [Islamic legal rulings] on jihad for the sake of Islam.

In exclusive remarks to AL-AHALI, Ahmad Rashid, charged in the case of the returnees from Afghanistan, affirmed that he travelled to Afghanistan in 1988 via Saudi Arabia. Seventy-five percent of his ticket was paid for by the General Authority for the Collection of Donations, a body established with the blessing of Saudi Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz and chaired by Prince Salman of Riyadh. The authority arranged for the travel of people who wished to go to Afghanistan with the same financial facilities. Rashid added that Dr. 'Abdallah Nasif, head of the League of Islamic World, had made it easy for him to obtain a visa to Pakistan. He pointed out that when he became close to the leaders of the extremist groups in Pakistan, he learned that a Saudi charitable society was paying the Islamic Group 200,000 pounds per month to help train and arm its members, in implementation of Bin-Baz' fatwa that the proceeds of the zakah [alms] and charitable donations could be spent for jihad purposes.

Rashid noted that he had spent more than two months in Saudi Arabia at a house owned by a Saudi named 'Abdallah. There, he met Egyptians, Sudanese, Syrians, and people of other nationalities. He learned there that special houses had been allocated for the Jihad and Islamic Group.

In a surprising revelation, Rashid said that some Saudi leaders had asked the Islamic Group to issue a statement supporting Saudi Arabia during the second Gulf war. When the Islamic Group declined to make the statement, the aid given to them by all charitable societies was stopped and the Saudi authorities started to pursue the leaders of the group and force some of them to flee to Afghanistan.

For his part, Hasan al-Hillawi, sentenced to a seven-year prison term, noted that he had entered Saudi Arabia with the help of a Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood senior figure, despite the Saudi authorities' knowledge that he had escaped from a Cairo prison. He worked for 11 years as an imam and preacher of a Saudi mosque, he added. At the mosque, he met with most of his colleagues who were members of the Technical Military College Organization [group of cadets who sought an armed revolt in the seventies], including 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Zayni, Sa'id Dirbalah, and Ahmad Salih, who all work there. He added that he had seen leaders of the Islamic Group and the Jihad Organization go to Saudi Arabia to obtain the zakah money from offices responsible for collecting charitable donations. He added: They could obtain more than a million riyals from a single governorate.

Egyptian-Algerian Media Talks Open in Cairo

NC1007162294 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] A round of media talks between Egypt and Algeria was held in Cairo today. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif led the Egyptian side to the talks while the Algerian side was led by Communication Minister Mohamed Benamar Zerhouni. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen media cooperation between the two countries in all fields as well as bilateral coordination on issues of joint interest. The two sides stressed the need to exchange programs, visits, and expertise between the two countries.

At the beginning of the talks, al-Sharif welcomed the Algerian guest and stressed the long-standing ties between the two fraternal states. For his part, Minister Zerhouni noted the Egyptian media's role and rich experience in various fields.

The Algerian minister arrived in Cairo last night on a visit to Egypt that will last for a few days. He was met at the airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and leading media officials.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Interviewed

NC0907190094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 17

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr by 'Amr Nasif in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Nasif] How do you interpret the ongoing anti-Muslim Brotherhood campaign? What is your answer to the claim that you are a banned group that has no right to engage in any political activity?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Several quarters have offered different interpretations for the current campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood. One of these interpretations is that the legislative elections for the People's Assembly are approaching. The situation requires that reasons and or climates be created to prevent the Islamic current from participating in these elections. This also obviously requires splitting the Islamic alliance between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Labor Party.

Another interpretation is that fear of the expansion and growth of the Islamic current prompted this campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood to contain or stem this growth. There are those who say that the dialogue and the tendency to exclude the Muslim Brotherhood from it required the creation of reasons or climates to persuade the parties participating in the dialogue to oppose the righteous Islamic current. Others say that the Lawyers Association's events in which the Muslim Brotherhood played no part have led to the escalation of the campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood. Those holding this view cite the government newspaper's race to attack the Muslim Brotherhood and to accuse it of various charges, including that it was behind the Lawyers Association's events to embarrass the regime, cause disturbances against the regime, and prepare the atmosphere for the Muslim Brotherhood candidates' success in the upcoming elections of the Association. Those who hold this view say that the campaign has escalated to prepare for an official stand against the various associations and the Islamic presence in them.

[Nasif] There are frank accusations that the Muslim Brotherhood was behind the Lawyers Association events and that the Guidance Bureau ordered the escalation of the confrontation with the security authorities, exploiting the death of a lawyer.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The frank accusations that the Muslim Brotherhood was behind the association events do not conceal or change the facts. The Muslim Brotherhood has no connections with the associations and do not run their affairs through the Guidance Bureau, as the government newspapers say. The Muslim Brotherhood has no interest in causing disturbances, revolutions, or coups because this does not conform with the course of serving Almighty God.

The Muslim Brotherhood respects the independence of associations and establishments in making their decisions and shouldering their responsibility.

[Nasif] What is your interpretation of the Muslim Brotherhood's penetration of the professional associations, which have come under the control of a banned group that prevents other popular currents from exercising their activities?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Penetration, theft, jumping from windows, control, and domination are all words that have come to light. Also used is the claim that the Muslim Brotherhood controls and prevents the remaining legal currents from exercising their activity. Those who belong to the Islamic current in the Lawyers Association and other associations did not enter them from windows and did not jump on the roofs of the associations but entered through legal doors and through free and fair elections. Judicial committees fully supervised these elections. In the Lawyers Association the judicial committee that supervised the elections was led by a Copt. It is a fact that anyone who belongs to the Islamic thought performs his work and shoulders his responsibility in the way that pleases Almighty God. He does not seek personal interest or benefit but seeks to please Almighty God, who is the controller and who metes out reward and punishment.

The thousands of association members are the ones who determine their stand and their rejection of these or those principles. As for the talk that the Muslim Brotherhood is banned, Islam is the state religion and is not banned. The call for Islam with good words and advice is the duty of every individual.

[Nasif] In his recent interview with DER SPIEGEL, President Mubarak accused the Muslim Brotherhood of being behind terrorism and said they are an illegal group. Many say the same thing. What is your answer?

[Abu-al-Nasr] According to government newspapers, in his recent interview with DER SPIEGEL, the president said this but he also said that the Muslim Brotherhood participates in political action through a political program to which they adhere.

Any accusations require proof. From our reality, facts, actions, clear and public behavior, and from our morals declared to all, we have what proves that we have denounced terrorism and extremism. As preachers for Almighty God, we only act as preachers and adopt their morals and their concern for the public interest. This is the bright Islamic image which protects lives, blood, property, and honor and which denounces any bloodshed, any threat to security and lives, any attack on money and property. Generally speaking, whoever has evidence against us, let him submit it. The fair Egyptian judiciary will have the final say. The claim that we prevent other currents from working is not true because we are the ones who are being prevented from working and who are deprived of all political rights guaranteed by the Constitution, including the press and parties law.

[Nasif] The statement that you are against terrorism is a political maneuver. Some believe that terrorism is a by-product of the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The extremist groups are the by-product of the of Muslim Brotherhood. Terrorism is the by-product of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood reaps the fruits of the acts of violence. All these

are claims similar to the claims on the theft of the associations, entering them through the windows, and controlling them.

There are several reasons for terrorism and extremism, foremost of which are the restrictions imposed on Islamic action and on freedom of opinion and expression. There is the role of the media in incitement. There are the restrictions imposed on al-Azhar, which has a splendid history of preaching for God. There are the secular elements and their attack on Islam and preachers. When these reasons and others are tackled, matters will proceed on a correct course toward security and stability and toward correcting ideas and concepts. We do not maneuver. We have a record of work. Since the seventies, we have not been accused of any incident. It has not been proved that there is any connection between anyone of us and any incident.

On the other hand, these associations have their councils elected from thousands of members who represent the cream of the intellectuals and scientists in this country. These councils represent the various tendencies. The opposition papers and all neutral quarters have affirmed that the events at the Lawyers Association were the work of the council and the result of the agreement of all its members despite their various tendencies. Moreover, the preachers for God have no interest in exploiting the death of a lawyer. We ask: What benefit will the Muslim Brotherhood derive from this incident? Some national newspapers have stated that the Muslim Brotherhood has exploited the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani to cause disturbances. Then they said that the Muslim Brotherhood exploited the death of Madani to promote their candidates in the upcoming elections. However, the most serious accusation leveled by the government newspapers was that the defense of 'Abd-al-Harith Madani represents cooperation between the Muslim Brotherhood and terrorism because the dead lawyer belonged to a terrorist cell. There are many factors that must be taken into consideration:

The associations' councils and members are the cream of the intellectuals and scientists in this country. They would not allow another party to interfere in their affairs and run their work on their behalf.

The opposition papers and the neutral and foreign media have published many details about the association's events. They all stressed that the stand taken by the association toward the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani was adopted by all the tendencies in the association. These media quarters gave names of some personalities to corroborate their information.

[Nasif] Some believe that the government has almost eliminated the terrorist groups and that it is now time for it to enter into a confrontation with the Muslim Brotherhood in its capacity as one of the most dangerous organizations. What is your view?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Some quarters do not want to give any chance to the preachers for God to do their work and carry out their duty. These quarters vehemently hate Islam as a shari'ah and course of life chosen by God for his servants. For this reason, they are distorting facts and leveling accusations against honest persons and are trying to cause sedition. Why does the government pay attention to these false accusations when it has proof of the innocence of these honest people and their good work and intentions? We do not pose a danger to anyone. We call for God with good words and advice. We seek a society that glorifies God in word and deed, that produces, gives, and makes sacrifices, that plays its role through ideals, ethics, correct progress, civilization, and nobility.

[Nasif] What is the relationship between you and the terrorist groups, including al-Jihad and the Islamic Group?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Thede is no relationship between us and the terrorist groups. Our line is clear and our course is clear in calling for God and gathering people around amity and brotherhood.

[Nasif] The regime categorically rejects the formation of a party on religious grounds because this means the formation of a Christian party and consequently entry into sectarian strife. What is your comment?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The government still rejects the formation of a party on a religious basis. We are not a religious party and we do not call for the formation of a religious party. We demand that we be permitted to work as preachers for God or as an Islamic party that believes that Islam is religion, state, politics, economy, science, and civilization.

We will continue to demand this and to seek it with all legal and available means. God alone guides us and everybody to the correct and righteous course.

Regarding the claim that our demand for the establishment of an Islamic party will lead to the formation of a Christian party, we do not object to the Christians forming their party if they demand this. We believe this will not lead to racial or sectarian strife. The relationship between us and the brother Christians are strong and based on rules imposed by Almighty God. These rules stress that the Christians have the same rights and duties as we do. Egypt is the responsibility of all. It is fair and just to accommodate everyone so that they may build and construct and offer and give and so that Egypt will continue to play its great civilizing role.

[Nasif] If you are demanding that your group be allowed to turn into a political party, what will the shape of such a party be? Can Christians join it?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We are now thinking of establishing a party on foundations derived from God's shari'ah, where things are managed and policies are drawn up on the basis of consultations. Such a party will emphasize religious and Islamic unity and demonstrate a leading role in the international arena. It will adopt the right

methods for development and promote freedom and security for all. Its doors will be open to every Egyptian. When the group had its entity and active work in the forties and up to the fifties, it had its specialized committees that included Christian figures—men of thought and knowledge.

[Nasif] The Muslim Brotherhood's vague views on important issues like democracy, transfer of power, women's work, and the application of shari'ah worry some people.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood supports the democracy that acknowledges every man's right to freedom. There should be no restrictions on parties or the press, and the freedom of expression and gathering should not be obstructed. People's participation in policies, events, and developments is not only a right, but a duty that everybody should exercise.

We are for political pluralism, and everyone has the right to establish a party. A free, fair, and independent judiciary will be the authority to judge actions, settle disputes, and examine policies.

[Nasif] What is your relationship with the states that apply Islamic systems, especially Sudan? Some say that you are behind Hasan al-Turabi.

[Abu-al-Nasr] There is no relationship between us and the regime ruling Sudan. We are not behind Dr. Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan or behind the government in Iran. These are mere pronouncements that have no basis.

[Nasif] A few years ago, differences surfaced between you and your Labor Party ally. What are these differences, and will the Labor Party represent you in the national dialogue?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Our alliance with the Labor Party is established on firm and clear foundations. Each of us has its own distinct and independent character. The firm common foundations are the Islamic policies. We may have different views on some issues, but an Islamic framework links us and pushes the alliance to promote its role. In the dialogue, the Labor Party represents the Labor Party.

[Nasif] How do you explain the exclusion of the Muslim Brotherhood from the national dialogue? Is the campaign against you related to this exclusion?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Some see a relationship between excluding us from the dialogue and the campaign against us. What we can say, however, is that a dialogue without the participation of all popular forces falls short of what is required and hoped for; it cannot realize the desired objective—if it can realize objectives.

[Nasif] The story of the International Organization of Muslim Brotherhood is often raised. It is said that there are Muslim Brotherhood leaders abroad who provide you with the necessary funding and who make plans for you, the latest being the Salsabil case. What is the truth about this organization?

[Abu-al-Nasr] No party funds the Muslim Brotherhood or helps it with money. The Brothers in Egypt have a lot of virtuous money in their pockets. What was said and is being said about Salsabil has been decided by the fair Egyptian judiciary, which examined the case of the founders of the company. The link between us and any group propagating God's message in any country does not go beyond mere invitations some of us receive to attend a seminar or participate in some event. If circumstances allow, we accept these invitations, and [illegible]o it openly, before the eyes and ears of everybody

[Nasif] Has the Muslim Brotherhood, as [illegible]eligious group, changed the objectives it set for itself [illegible]en it was established by Imam Hasan al-Banna?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Objectives are changed if the bases are changed. But as long as the bases and foundations remain the same, and as long as our activity revolves around calling on people to come close to God, reminding them of their duties, and bringing them together on the road of virtue, then these are as firm objectives as the religion itself. Islamic work facilitates peoples' interests within a lawful framework that pleases God Almighty.

[Nasif] What is your relationship with the Palestinian Resistance Movement (Hamas), and how do you view the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Hamas is an Islamic organization which, as is evident in its statements and literature, pursues jihad for the cause of God, to liberate the land, defend honor, regain the homeland, and repatriate the deportees. It works within the Islamic framework which stresses that the question of Palestine is an Islamic question, that the stranger Jewish entity is a usurper entity, and that jihad is the only way to liberate the land from this entity. We believe that we have common ground with everybody who believes that the Palestine question is an Islamic issue and that Palestine can only be regained in the method used by Saladin and our virtuous ancestors, may God's peace be upon them. As regards Gaza-Jericho, we have given our opinion. My answer to the question on the relationship with Hamas explains our position clearly and unambiguously.

[Nasif] Do you still oppose cooperation and coordination with the Nasirites and the communists?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood extends its hands to anyone who works for the sake of this country, believes in freedom and security as rights for every citizen and who believes in dialogue and consultations as a means to solving problems, and who proceeds in his work from the true identity and genuine nature of this country.

When we were asked to give our opinion of the dialogue, we said that we support the participation of all forces and schools of thought. We announced our views on pluralism; namely, everybody's freedom to establish or join a party, and his right and freedom to publish a newspaper. Where there is public interest, we meet and cooperate. From this clear principle, the Muslim Brotherhood has not refrained from joining all parties and forces in discussing national issues or formulating opinions toward a crisis or a situation.

Paper Ridicules Sanaa Reconciliation Statements

NC1207070894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0611 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says the Yemeni crisis has not ended with northern army control of the situation in Aden, because the destruction this war inflicted on the southern people will not be forgotten quickly; it will remain.

In its editorial today, the paper refers to statements made by southern leaders who took shelter in countries neighboring Yemen, citing them as saying that their war with the Sanaa regime is not over. The paper remarks that this is a development warning that Yemen's wound is still bleeding.

AL-AKHBAR expresses astonishment at Sanaa sources' statements on efforts to achieve reconciliation and hold a national dialogue among all the institutions to decide Yemen's future. It says this was too late after Sanaa ignored every appeal to cease fire and not deepen the wound. It notes that this calls for mockery mixed with sadness and grief.

G-7 Summit's Stance on Libya, Iraq Sanctions Viewed

NC1207093794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says the agreement by leaders of the seven major industrial nations and the Russian Federation not to lift international sanctions on Libya and Iraq signifies change in the stances of countries that called for reviewing the sanctions on the two countries, particularly Russia and France.

In its editorial today, the paper expresses its belief that Russia's stance is understandable in the context of its efforts to win privileges from the major industrial nations and therefore not to engage in confrontation with U.S. policy. But the paper regards the French position as far from having a logical explanation.

The paper also expresses its belief that the cases of Iraq and Libya differ from each other. It notes that progress can be achieved in the Libyan case through discussion of a fair trial on neutral ground of those the West accuses of blowing up a U.S. and French plane.

The paper explains that the case of Iraq will remain linked with the repeated demand for the Iraqi leadership to recognize the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and to stop futile claims on Kuwait. When this demand is met, the paper notes, the door will be open to a serious discussion on lifting the sanctions, especially with the progress made in eliminating Iraqi biological and chemical weapons.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM calls for separate approaches to the Libyan and Iraqi cases and for looking into each case individually so that the unjustified sanctions on two fraternal nations can be lifted.

Libya

Editor Assails G-7 Summit's Final Communique

LD1107114794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1010 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jul (JANA)—The final communique of the G7 summit is characterized by total bias toward the Israeli enemy, an attempt to harm the Arab nation and its crucial causes, and to interfere in its internal affairs.

The communique, which was issued at the end of the G7 countries' meetings in Naples yesterday, called on the Arabs to end the Arab boycott of Israel. We find it stressing the need to continue the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah, and to continue imposition of the siege on Iraq despite the Great Jamahiriyah's demonstrated readiness for cooperation to resolve this crisis and the positive initiatives which it has presented in this respect, which have been adopted by the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Non-Aligned Movement, and Iraq's implementation of all the conditions of the so-called Security Council, including putting Baghdad under video and audio surveillance.

The seven Western countries affirmed in their communique their interference in the internal affairs of the Arab nation by poking their noses into the internal affairs of sister Algeria and inviting it to what they called a dialogue between the Algerian Government and elements of the [Islamic] Salvation Front.

On the economic side, the seven countries admitted the existence of inflation in their economies, the continued deficit in their economic growth, and increasing unemployment—the communique admitted the existence of 24 million unemployed people in those countries.

JANA's international affairs editor says that the G-7 final communique, under the leadership of the United States, brought nothing new because these countries' stands were known to the peoples of the world, who have never seen from the Western countries at any time anything other than a policy of arrogance and an attempt to dominate and control peoples' destinies.

At the end of his commentary, the editor says that instead of pursuing their colonialist policies against small countries which are trying to achieve freedom and a peaceful life under the sun, the Western colonialist countries should pay attention to the many problems of their peoples, including, for instance, grave unemployment, economic deficit and inflation, and the spread of incurable diseases in their societies.

Tunisia

Ceremony Marks Departure of PLO Chairman 'Arafat

'Arafat Honored

LD1107131794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] In order to embody the strong bonds of fraternity and struggle between the fraternal Tunisian and Palestinian peoples and to emphasize the important place the Palestinian cause occupies in the heart of the president of the Republic and in the hearts of all Tunisians, an official ceremony was held at Carthage Palace this morning. During this ceremony, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali honored Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat before his return to Palestine, by awarding him the Highest Order of 7th November [1987].

The Palestinian president then awarded President Zine El Abidine the "Star of Palestine" medal to express his appreciation for the suitable climate provided by 7 November in Tunisia to the Palestinian leadership to enable it to continue its struggle from Tunisian soil.

Afterwards, the two leaders exchanges speeches. We will provide you with details on this ceremony in later bulletins. It is worth noting that a send-off ceremony will be held at Tunis-Carthage International Airport this afternoon during which the president of the Republic will bid farewell to the Palestinian president.

Ben Ali Bids 'Arafat Farewell

LD1107165594 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in honor of departing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Carthage Palace in Tunis on 11 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Tunisia, president, government, and people, is today saying farewell to the Palestinian leadership, which is returning back to the kinfolk and the land after 12 years of hospitality marked throughout by a joint struggle that witnessed the mixing of the Tunisian and Palestinian blood for the sake of the Palestinian cause.

A ceremony was held on this occasion at the Carthage Presidential Palace, during which the two presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Yasir 'Arafat exchanged medals. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made a speech in which he congratulated the Palestinians on their victorious return and hoped that there would be no more wandering or exile. He stressed that what was happening nowadays in the world is not a mere light tremor but a phenomenon of deep historic change of which Israel should take account.

The president of the republic stressed his conviction that the dawn is coming and that the victory of the Palestinian people is certain. We listen hereafter to the recording of the speech of the president of the republic:

[Ben Ali] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency the struggler Yasir 'Arafat. [applause] My brother Abu-'Ammar, your excellencies the members of the Executive Committee of the PLO, [applause], ladies and gentlemen: Twelve years ago, Tunisia witnessed a memorable event that consisted of welcoming the PLO, its leaders and fighters, at a time full of hardships in the history of the struggle of the Palestinian people, during which brothers and friends became rare and room has become scarce on the earth. [passage omitted]

Dear brother, president of the sisterly state of Palestine: From the land of Tunisia the green I salute you, great struggler and historic leader. I also salute the leadership of the PLO and all Palestine's sons on the day of your return. [passage omitted]

One of the strange coincidences was that the civilized change [7 November] that took place in Tunisia coincided with the Palestinian stone revolution and the start of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian lands. [applause]

This was another incentive to further affirm the support for this just and national cause. We have done this within the framework of full respect for the independent Palestinian decision, without ulterior motives or calculations. One of the constants of Tunisian diplomacy was to reach the Palestinian voice to the international community, whether through international forums or through contacts with friendly countries. It gives us great pride that Tunisia has always been present and has contributed to the success of the Palestinian efforts to overcome the stumbling that inflicted the Washington talks and to achieve the 13 September 1993 agreement.

The great welcome accorded to this agreement was evidence of the promising horizons it has opened, not only in bringing the hour of deliverance closer for the fraternal Palestinian people, but also for ripening the just, permanent and comprehensive peace process.

Tunisia has worked since the start of the Madrid conference on helping the Palestinian brothers within the framework of complete respect, for the independence of the Palestinian decision to consolidate their negotiating position and affirm their identity and independent entity in the face of the attempts of marginalization that targeted them. This was in the heart of our interventions

within the framework of the working groups of the multilateral talks, in our hosting of the working group on the Palestinian refugees, in our participation in the Washington symposium for the donor countries and sides, and in our membership of the international committee for coordinating aid to the Palestinian self-rule. [passage omitted]

Dear brother president, we have stressed to you on numerous occasions Tunisia's complete readiness to put its expertise in the service of restructuring the liberated Palestinian entity and the Palestinian national institutions.

The outline agreement that we have signed today between our two countries forms the first brick according to the Palestinian priorities and the possibility of Tunisia's contribution in it, particularly in the spheres where Tunisian expertise has proved its competence well-known to the Palestinian brothers.

Tunisia has welcomed the 4 May 1994 agreement due to the great symbolism it contained, the least of which was causing the collapse of the bases of the settlement expansionist plan, the start of implementing the arrangements of the Palestinian self-rule, and has led for the first time to an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory in the Jericho area and the Gaza Strip and the start of exercising national authority. It [Tunisia] is determined to be true to its pledge in standing beside the Palestinian people in completing the elements of their sovereignty, creating their independent state, and building their national authority.

This is why Tunisia kept appealing to the international community to double its efforts in providing support for the emerging Palestinian entity and to help that entity in facing up to the challenges of reconstructing what the long decades of occupation have ruined, and also in meeting the numerous immediate needs that have to be provided for all the individuals of the Palestinian people for the sake of stability and peace in the region.

Mr. President, Tunisia, which is proud of what it was able to achieve in supporting the just Palestinian cause, firmly believes that peace—which is an international aspiration and responsibility—should be based on justice in order to secure its permanency and strength. This would have to be through changing the inhuman conditions, which contradict the international treaties and which stemmed from occupation and usurping rights. This is for the sake of reaching normal relations among the countries of the region, which would be based on peaceful coexistence. The achievement of this aim is impossible without responding to the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations of self-determination, restoring its status among the peoples, and reaching a just solution for the issues pending, with the issues of Jerusalem, refugees, and liberating the Arab land at the forefront.

We have no doubt that the Palestinian leadership is capable of achieving these goals through its political wisdom and through the support and commitment of all sectors of the Palestinian people, not only to the 13 September agreement but also to its development in a way that will open the way to the emergence of the independent Palestinian state. The Tunisian experiment in self-rule before achieving complete independence should be an example for the Palestinian leadership.

The PLO has proved its abilities and efficiency during the armed struggle as it restored the international community's interest to the Palestinian cause, which it deserved. The PLO has brought the Palestinian identity to the forefront again and has consecrated that in its commitment to the establishment of the just peace. This happened when it waved the olive branch and for the sake of peace undertook initial commitments that cannot be undertaken except by someone who believes in his own strength, which he draws from the credibility of his representation. The PLO has drawn up images of the future that prove its realistic character, farsightedness, and that it adopts democracy as its behavior, and forgiveness, open mindedness, and dialogue as its firm values.

You have taken the first step in your victorious march. No one whatsoever could obstruct the path of history and hold the world back. What is happening in the world is not merely a superficial tremor. It is a phenomenon of deep historic transformation. Israel should take this transformation into consideration. This is why we firmly believe that dawn is coming and that the victory of the Palestinian people is inevitable and will happen soon. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Delivers Speech

LD1107161294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at an official ceremony honoring him at Carthage Palace on 11 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. [passage omitted]

We will, God willing, continue this struggle, as I said, continuously struggle until the Palestinian flag is hoisted in all the Palestinian land. This is a difficult battle and there is another battle—that of construction with all its difficulties, particularly given an atmosphere that is hard and painstaking and the means are not available. We need the means, because all our infrastructure was destroyed completely because of the occupation.

However, we have confidence, in our Arab brethren and in our friends in the world, that the Palestinian people will not be left to fight all these problems and difficulties alone. Once again I tell you, O Zine El Abidine; I call you the name that is dear to me: O Zine of the Arabs. We will be together, side by side, and will pray together, God willing, in holy Jerusalem, soon, soon, soon. From Tunis, from Kairouan, this ancient Islamic city, from Tunis,

from Kairouan to Jerusalem, the first Qiblah and the third holy place. [passage omitted].

We have numerous problems and you have put up with our numerous problems and you have put up with all the weight of the Palestinian revolution and all the weight of the PLO. This is something the Palestinian people will not forget. However, I know very well that my brother and my companion, my brother Zine of the Arabs, Zine El Abidine, will always remain with us with his guidance and his advice, so we can build this new homeland in the Arab nation, namely the Palestinian state, God willing, [applause] with holy Jerusalem as its capital [applause], with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

"Yes we desired to be gracious to those that were abased in the land, and to make them leaders and to make them the inheritors and to establish them in the land" and "to enter the Temple, as they entered it the first time." [Koranic verse] "We shall help our messengers and those who have believed in the present life, and upon the day when the witnesses arise." [Koranic verse]

We will be together until Jerusalem. We will be together until Jerusalem. We will be together until Jerusalem. [applause]

Cooperation Agreement With Palestinians Outlined

LD1107165694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] At a ceremony held this morning at the Foreign Ministry, Messrs. Habib Ben Yahya, foreign minister, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, signed an outline agreement of cooperation between the Republic of Tunisia and the PLO that covers several sectors. The agreement provides for consultations and coordination between the two sides in the political field. Thus, it was decided to set up a Palestinian-Tunisian Joint Committee which will follow up the files and will work to facilitate and develop bilateral cooperation. This committee is co-chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers [as heard].

The agreement also provides for the promotion of economic, financial, and commercial cooperation between the two countries and cooperation in the study and preparation of programs and plans for Palestinian development projects, in addition to the promotion and protection of investments and the creation of joint ventures between businessmen and companies from both countries. The agreement also covers cooperation in the services, infrastructure, and environmental protection.

It is worth noting that this agreement will cover a five-year period and is renewable.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya said the signing of this agreement constituted a symbol for the liberation of Palestine and gave a new impetus to Tunisian-Palestinian relations. Mr. Faruq Qaddumi said the agreement crowned the fraternal relations and the strong links between the two countries. He added it also reflected the deep feelings that have brought the two peoples together for so long, since the Tunisians gave hospitality to their Palestinian brethren in their safe country Tunisia. He further said that the crowning and deepening of these relations at all levels, particularly the economic level, fell within a natural process and constituted a testimony for generations of the deep-rooted ties existing between Palestine and Tunisia. He added Tunisia was at the forefront of the countries supporting the Palestinian cause.

The head of the PLO political department also expressed his sincere thanks to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to the government and the people of Tunisia for the noble feelings they have had towards the Palestinian people.

Western Sahara

Information Ministry Criticizes Hassan Speech

LD1207103194 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Following the recent speech delivered by the king of Rabat on the occasion of the so-called Youth Day, the Information Ministry in the Government of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic issued the following statement:

King Hassan II has been ruling Morocco with an iron-grip for over 30 years, 30 years full of abominable crimes, including innumerable arrests and abductions of Moroccan nationals, 30 years of dictatorial rule which saw the birth the secret and terrible prisons and internment camps which are now known to all, including Tazmamart and Kelaat M'gouna.

King Hassan is today misleading local, regional, and international public opinion by putting together prisoners of conscience and common prisoners. In his speech on the occasion of his 65th birthday, Hassan II theatrically attempted to draw a parallel between his individual despotic rule and modern systems [of government], claiming to facilitate the release of all political prisoners held in his secret prisons, except those who support the Saharan people's right to self-determination. This naturally includes the Saharans themselves.

This attempt by the king of Morocco, the Information Ministry statement says, is merely deception and one-upmanship aimed at diverting the attention of public opinion away from the case of 800 Saharan political prisoners and Moroccan prisoners who are held in the jails of the king of Rabat because of their political stands on the issue of Western Sahara. These stands are in line with UN resolutions calling for a referendum on self-determination for the Saharan people.

The Moroccan regime has constantly obstructed this referendum, particularly with regard to the identification of those entitled to vote in it. The best evidence for this are the recent statements by the Moroccan interior minister on the electoral lists.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saqia El Hamra and Rio Del Oro [Polisario], the statement adds, which has always offered the necessary facilities and its cooperation to the UN Commission for the Identification [of voters], strongly condemns the recent Moroccan position which rejects the participation of OAU observers in the identification process and regards this position as further obstruction and blockage by the Moroccan regime of the UN-African peace plan aimed at putting an end to the conflict in Western Sahara.

On this occasion, the Information Ministry statement says, we draw the attention of the international organizations and international figures to the human rights situation and the blatant violations to which Saharan citizens are subjected under Moroccan occupation in Western Sahara. We also call on the international community and the human rights organizations to launch wide-scale campaigns to obtain the release of all Saharan political prisoners and to work for implementation of the UN-African peace plan [words indistinct].

Polisario Calls For Release of Sympathizers

LD1207081894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] yesterday called for the release of Moroccan prisoners of conscience who support the Saharan cause. It also demanded the immediate implementation of the UN peace plan in Western Sahara.

In a statement by the Saharan Information Ministry, a copy of which has been delivered to APS, the Polisario Front expressed its extreme concern over King Hassan II's recent decision to release political prisoners in Morocco, except those who support the right of the Saharan people to self-determination.

Yemen

Officials To Discuss Breakdown of Law, Order in Aden

NC1107160794 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 11 (AFP)—Officials from Yemen's northern-based government arrived here Monday [11 July] for a meeting aimed at restoring law and order to this southern city plagued by post-war looting, officials said.

The first government meeting since the north won a two-month war against southern separatists last week will take place on Wednesday, they said.

The delegation was led by the vice president of the Presidential Council 'Abd-al-Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and included Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Ansi as well as several other ministers.

'Abd-al-Ghani told AFP that "the priority is to consolidate security" and return things to normal by getting the administration and police back to work.

The police has been called on to replace the northern army which started its withdrawal from the south's bastion on Sunday.

He added that the interior ministry "would take severe measures against those looting public property."

Unidentified armed gangs have looted stores and public buildings since Aden fell to northern troops on Thursday following a month-long siege and as southern leaders fled the country.

'Abd-al-Ghani said there had been no arrests among Aden residents, denying statements by exiled southern leaders.

And he repeated Sanaa's commitment to "political dialogue" adding that it was time to close the book on the "black chapter of secession."

In a meeting in Amman with Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, King Husayn of Jordan said his country was concerned about "the unification and democratization process" in Yemen following the civil war.

Unlike some other Arab states which said unity should not be established through force, Jordan supported Yemeni unity.

War erupted on May 5 after months of tension between rival northern and southern leaders on how to run Yemen, which was forged out of a 1990 union of the former Marxist South and conservative North Yemen.

'Official Sources' Say al-Iryani To Form New Cabinet

JN1107192494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 11 Jul (INA)—The Yemeni leadership will begin intensive consultations with political parties in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, early next week to form a national unity government to replace the current coalition government led by [Acting Prime Minister] Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar.

In a statement to a correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Sanaa today, official Yemeni sources said that the national unity government to be formed will include figures representing several Yemeni parties that are currently outside the Yemeni coalition government.

The sources added that the new government will be assigned the basic task of implementing the provisions enshrined in the Yemeni Presidential Council statement issued on Thursday, which underscored general amnesty, commitment to democracy, and compensation for those harmed by the war. The government will also seek to bring the situation to normal in the areas affected by the war, to rebuild these areas, to expand the base of popular participation in power, and to launch local government rule in Yemeni governorates.

The official Yemeni sources added that [Yemeni] Development and Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani will be asked to form the next Yemeni government, in which the defense, interior, information, and transportation ministers are expected to retain their portfolios.

The sources indicated that the Yemeni Presidential Council will next week ask the Yemeni House of Representatives to elect two new members of the Council—which consists of five members—to replace 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Salim Salih Muhammad.

The sources ruled out the appointment of a vice chairman for the Yemeni Presidential Council, because the Yemeni Constitution does not provide for the creation of such a post.

Al-Iryani's Plane Experiences Technical Problems

NC1107195794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has stated that the Yemeni leadership will not have any reservations about any figure participating in national dialogue in Yemen. He noted that all the Yemeni parties without exception will have the freedom to elect their representatives to the dialogue.

Speaking to reporters after his plane landed at Cairo airport this evening after it developed a technical problem, al-Iryani said his country will leave it to UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to set a date and venue for the dialogue.

He explained that during his visit to Jordan he met with Jordanian officials and explained to them the latest developments in Yemen. He thanked Jordan for sending medical teams to treat the wounded in the Yemeni war. He noted that during his presence in New York he met with [south Yemen leaders] Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and agreed with them that the door to dialogue should remain open.

Al-Iryani's plane, which was flying from Amman to Sanaa, is now being repaired at Cairo airport.

Al-Iryani, Basindwah Leave Cairo

NC1207045794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and planning minister, left Cairo this evening after a stopover that lasted several hours. Al-Iryani stopped over in Cairo this afternoon after a technical problem developed in the aircraft that was flying him. The plane made an unscheduled landing at Cairo airport, where it was repaired.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah left on the same plane after his stop in Cairo on his way from London to Sanaa.

Al-Iryani on Gulf, U.S. Stands on Yemen Crisis

JN1107101494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jul 94 pp 30, 28

[Report by Amjad al-Mu'alla]

[Excerpts] Amman—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, has said that the Yemeni leadership, government, and people are thankful and appreciative of the honorable role that Jordan has played to stop Yemeni bloodshed and maintain the Yemeni unity.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR on his arrival in Amman from New York yesterday, Dr. al-Iryani said that Jordan—king, government, and people—had exerted sincere efforts to prevent the crisis from taking place. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Iryani said that the general amnesty decision covers the 16 personalities [Yemeni Socialist Party leaders previously excluded from the amnesty] in the event they accept constitutional legitimacy and the results of the 27 April elections and vow not to conspire against the country's safety and security. He said that if they agree to that, they will be able to return to Yemen.

Asked about the threats that are being made by the rebels from some Gulf states, Dr. al-Iryani expressed his confidence that "our brothers to whom the rebels have fled are no less concerned about Yemen's security and stability than the Yemenis themselves."

He added that the Yemeni issue was raised at the United Nations based on the argument that instability in Yemen would lead to insecurity and instability in neighboring countries.

Dr. al-Iryani ruled out that neighboring countries would work against stability in Yemen, noting that he believes that what the rebels say does not represent the wishes of the countries to which they have fled.

Regarding the separatists' threats to form a government in exile, Dr. al-Iryani said that the entire world knows that no government in exile can be formed unless it is established by the host country. He added: Therefore, I believe that concern for regional security and stability is far greater than any tendency to respond to the wishes of the rebels. [passage omitted]

On his assessment of the U.S. position toward the Yemeni crisis and its contradiction with the position of the Gulf states, Dr. al-Iryani said that from the outset, the U.S. position has focused on maintaining regional security and stability.

He added that the U.S. Administration held the view that partition and having two states again would make Yemen a constant hotbed of tension affecting all regional states.

Dr. al-Iryani expressed the conviction that the U.S. Administration had also taken into consideration that if Yemen were to remain divided, the Gulf states would alter their stands every now and then, sometimes supporting Sanaa against Aden, and sometimes supporting Aden against Sanaa, depending on political changes, thus maintaining a state of regional conflict and struggle. [passage omitted]

Oman's Information Minister Arrives With Message

JN1107123994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, Oman's information minister, arrived in Sanaa today. He will hand over a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to his brother Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council.

The message concerns consultation, coordination, and dialogue between the two fraternal countries, al-Rawwas told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA' on arrival.

On hand to greet him were brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, minister of justice; a protocol officer at the Presidential Council, and brother 'Awad Mahfuz Bakathir, Oman's ambassador in Sanaa.

Salih Receives Omani Minister

JN1107155594 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, has received Oman's Information Minister

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, who communicated to him a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id about regional developments and the close ties between the two fraternal countries and means to develop them.

The meeting was attended by 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, Yemen's minister of justice, and 'Awad Bin-Mahfuz Bakathir, the sultanate's ambassador in Sanaa.

Salih: Eager To Bolster Ties With Neighbors

JN1107180594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, minister of information in the sisterly Sultanate of Oman. The minister conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, dealing with developments and issues that concern brotherly bilateral relations and views and coordination on developments in the region, as well as issues of common interest.

The message also includes an reaffirmation of the Sultanate of Oman's position in support of Yemeni unity, and security and stability in the Republic of Yemen, and Oman's eagerness to bolster and develop horizons of joint cooperation between the two sisterly neighboring countries.

The brother Presidential Council chairman hailed the position of the brothers in the Sultanate of Oman, led by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, in support of our people at a time of crisis that was imposed by those who rebelled against our people and homeland, and in support of Yemeni unity and stability in our country. He pointed out the special Yemeni-Omani relations and the deep fraternal ties between the two brotherly peoples. He emphasized the Republic of Yemen's eagerness to bolster and develop its relations with its brothers and neighbors on the basis of fruitful cooperation, mutual respect, and joint action in the interest of all sides, and in a manner that serves security, stability, and peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by Yahya al-Mutawakkil, interior minister; 'Abdallah Ghanim, minister of justice and acting minister information; and brother 'Awad Bin-Mahfuz Bakathir, the Sultanate of Oman's ambassador to our country.

Al-Rawwas: Al-Bid To Quit Politics

JN1207073194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, information minister of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman, yesterday left Sanaa following a brief visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The message falls within the context of the ceaseless consultation and dialogue between the leaders of the two sisterly countries.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA, and the Yemeni Television's Channel One, al-Rawwas said Oman has been, and will always remain committed to its firm policy, which is based on compliance with good neighborliness and noninterference in others' domestic affairs, and supports the Republic of Yemen and its territorial integrity. He said this has been Oman's position since the establishment of unity and will never change.

He added that the Yemeni-Omani relations are excellent and continue to improve both horizontally and vertically in a way that agrees with the developmental advancement and the joint political action between our countries and peoples and that serves the region's stability and the welfare of its peoples.

Asked about Oman's position on the presence of 'Ali Salim al-Bid and some rebels on Omani territory, the Omani information minister said: Al-Bid has quit political action for good and has stated that to the Omani authorities. He will not conduct any political action, not in Oman or outside Oman. This is the reality and the brothers in Oman are convinced about it.

Asked about the return of the vehicles which the rebels smuggled to Oman, the Omani information minister said: All the equipment that entered Oman is in the custody of the Omani army and will be handed over to the Yemeni authorities any time the Yemeni authorities deem appropriate.

The brother Omani information minister commended the brother Presidential Council chairman, the House of Representatives, and the Yemeni Government for announcing a general amnesty. He said: It is the trait of noblemen to show forgiveness. The policy of forgiveness and openness to the Yemeni citizen everywhere and regardless of what he has done is a wise policy that brings stability and prosperity to Yemen.

Sanaa Said 'Blind' to Killing Despite Amnesty

PM1107141494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Lutfi Shatarah in London, Hammud Munsir in Sanaa, Khalil Matar in New York, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Aden and Cairo: "Al-Siyali Killed in Aden Despite the General Amnesty"]

[Excerpt] The northern forces in Aden yesterday killed Salih Munsir al-Siyali, governor of the southern capital and member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], who had insisted on remaining there and refused to leave with the other leaders who departed with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, Democratic Yemen's vice president. That occurred despite the assurances given by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the Yemeni planning and development minister who is close to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, that the general amnesty

issued in Sanaa also included the 16 figures who had been accused of responsibility for the secession. Al-Siyali was one of them.

Informed sources in Sanaa told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "a senior figure in the Yemeni capital said that if any of the YSP leaders fell into the hands of the northern forces and was killed by his captors, then Sanaa would turn a blind eye and leave those responsible for that alone." That was an implicit encouragement, as in the case of al-Siyayli. It is worth noting that the Yemeni President has rejected a request by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali for the report of a factfinding commission. [passage omitted]

South's al-Jifri: 'We Will Return'

PM1207081294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jul 94 p3

[Telephone interview with "South Yemen Vice President" 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri by Lutfi Shatarah, "after his withdrawal from Aden to Djibouti and then to Saudi Arabia"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] Why did you decide to leave Aden?

[Al-Jifri] We found that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was destroying Aden and using our presence there as the justification for that destruction. We had two options. We could resist, and that was possible temporarily but would have led to the destruction of what was left of Aden and would have doubled the people's suffering through the destruction, the killing, and the water shortage. [passage omitted]

So we concluded that we had to make the difficult and painful decision to withdraw from Aden to save what was left of our people. That was not an act of escape or cowardice. Our people know that they and we stood fast like men and that we were, and still are, willing to sacrifice our lives for the people. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] But Sanaa has announced that it intends to ask the authorities of the country in which you stay to hand you over for trial.

[Al-Jifri] That situation is reversed. It is the criminals who should be handed over. We were defending with honor and we did not commit any war crimes. Such crimes were committed by the Sanaa regime. We did not defy international legitimacy, the Sanaa regime did. [passage omitted]

Any solutions to the crisis through any form of unity or link cannot, according to the two UN Security Council resolutions, be legitimate except through negotiations between the two parties to the conflict which is what the Sanaa regime has rejected and continues to reject.

So, what is required, in terms of international legitimacy, is that the Sanaa regime should be compelled to abide by the UN resolutions, and that the war criminals who committed the ugliest war crimes, and are still doing so, should be brought to trial. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Having left Aden, what are your political plans?

[Al-Jifri] We will continue to politically demand what I have said and we will continue all kinds and forms of struggle until the Democratic Republic of Yemen is liberated from the occupation and until our people put an end to the repression and humiliation. We will be with our people and we will not let them down. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Will you maintain a government in exile?

[Al-Jifri] We will continue as the DRY regime at home and abroad because we are the regime which represents national legitimacy and which represents our people's hopes and aspirations to a free and honorable life.

[Shatarah] How do you explain the fact that al-Mukalla fell so easily?

[Al-Jifri] Some mistakes were made and there was treachery against the most important military civilian figure in Hadhramaut, namly martyr Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun. His death by treachery resulted in some confusion which was exploited by some defeatest and planted elements in creating confusion in the ranks of the fighters. That led to the fall of the governorate. Also, having seen the savagery and destruction, the people feared that the various cities and civilians would be subjected to what valiant Aden has been subjected to.

[Shatarah] There have been some reports of diplomatic moves to hold a referendum for the people of the south to determine the fate of unity.

[Al-Jifri] That is one of the points we will raise with the world, and we will call for a free referendum in the DRY under neutral supervision on the basis of withdrawal of all forces because there can be no real referendum in the presence of forces of repression, terror, looting, and forgery, which has become habitual. We challenge the Sanaa regime and those who support it to accept such a referendum which is a legitimate right upheld by all laws and by the UN charter which upholds the right of self-determination for people.

[Shatarah] But Sanaa believes that Yemen is united and that unity is the choice of all the people.

[Al-Jifri] Are the Arab people not one and the same people, or do they [the Sanaa regime] not believe that? But if they did believe so, would that give any Arab state the right to occupy the rest of the Arab states on the pretext of Arab unity and the pretext that we are one and the same people? [passage omitted]

The [Sanaa] regime is certainly an occupation regime seeking more territory to plunder its wealth. That is why we warn all the companies operating in the DRY that any wealth extracted from our territory is the property of the DRY and its people and that any dealing with the Sanaa regime in this connection would be illegitimate and would be considered by us to be a hostile act against our people in the south.

It will be our right to prevent any investment in oil, minerals, fish, agriculture, or industry on our territory so long as such investments are arranged with the Sanaa regime. We will prevent that by all ways and means and at any cost. We care about the interests of foreign companies on our territory but we care more about the interests of our people on their own territory. Everyone should know and understand that. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] You are continuing your meetings abroad. What are the most important issues you have been discussing?

[Al-Jifri] We are discussing rearrangement of our situation and the situation of our groups at home and abroad, as well as the condition of our people and their families who are suffering humiliation, coercion, occupation, plunder, and rape. And we are also discussing the condition of our students whose education expenses have been withheld by the Sanaa regime, and also our future moves in all fields and directions.

[Shatarah] Sanaa says that the fate of over 1,200 POW's held by the southern authorities is not known.

[Al-Jifri] So Sanaa does not know the DRY territory and does not know what points its forces reached. Sanaa believes that we treat the POW's and detainees the way it does, that is with liquidation and humiliation, but we are not like Sanaa because, first of all, we fear God and we abide by all human rights conventions. If, as Sanaa says, we had POW's or detainees, they must now be under its control or authority. We have no detention camps abroad.

We, however, would like to ask Sanaa about the physical liquidation of our families and detainees and about the fate of thousands of DRY POW's and detainees including Colonel Jawwas, commander of the Basuhayb Brigade, who appeared on Sanaa television. What happened to him? It [Sanaa] is responsible for him, his life, and the lives of all the detainees it is holding.

The time will come when we will bring the Sanaa regime and its symbols to account for all the war crimes committed against the Yemeni people. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani [north Yemeni planning minister] has announced that the general amnesty issued by Sanaa covers the 16 figures it held responsible for the war and the secession. Do you accept that?

[Al-Jifri] We ask al-Iryani who should pardon whom and under what religion, creed, or law can a war criminal pardon honorable people? That is a law of the jungle understood only by such people as the symbols of the Sanaa regime. We do not seek amnesty from such people because we committed no crime against our people and did nothing wrong. The crimes were committed by the architects of this destructive war headed by the great doctor and exceptional war architect 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani. We know and he knows that we know the background of the crimes committed by the Sanaa regime and the background of the foreign stands, and who helped them in their crimes—some of them have been named, such as Iraq, and some have yet to be named. The day will come when the link between them and the architects of the war in Sanaa will be revealed and so will the price.

[Shatarah] Do you hope to return to the south?

[Al-Jifri] We are in the south, if not in person then through our men, supporters, and people, and, God willing, we will return in person.

Al-Jifri Said 'Determined' To Continue Resistance

PM1107141894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jul 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jifri, Leader of the Southern Resistance Against Sanaa"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Some sources have stated that the south Yemeni leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid has asked his deputy 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali Bin-Muhammad al-Jifri to coordinate efforts, assemble forces, and manage the acts of resistance. The sources added that al-Jifri, who played a significant part in the declaration of the (southern) Democratic Republic of Yemen and is one of the most prominent south Yemeni leaders opposed to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's rule, appeared to be determined to continue the efforts to confront the north's invasion of southern Yemen.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri was born in 1943 in the village of Yashbam in the Yemeni governorate of Shabwah. [passage omitted]

South Reportedly Preparing for Guerrilla War

NC1107184594 Paris AFP in English 1807 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, July 11 (AFP)—Guerrillas are preparing attacks against northern forces "occupying" south Yemen where large quantities of weapons have been hidden, an exiled southern leader said Monday [11 July].

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "vice president" of the breakaway southern state declared on May 21, told AFP: "Guerrilla groups are getting organised in southern Yemen and will end up shaking the northern occupation."

Al-Jifri, speaking from Jiddah in Saudi Arabia, said many "of our weapons were hidden in the south's interior, shortly before we left Aden."

Al-Jifri and other southern leaders fled Yemen after the south's stronghold of Aden fell to northern troops on Thursday, following two months of civil war.

"We will resist by all means possible the occupation of the south of the country by the Sanaa regime," al-Jifri said, adding that "several regions are out of their control."

A northern official said Saturday the "last bastion of (southern) secessionists" had fallen when northern troops captured the town of al-Ghaydhah on the border with Oman.

Al-Jifri also said he wanted to begin "an unconditional dialogue" with the Sanaa government on the Yemeni conflict.

"We support dialogue on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions, which reject any political settlement based on force," he said.

UN Resolutions 924 and 931 called for an immediate ceasefire in the fighting, which erupted on May 5, and the start of talks between the two sides.

Northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih marched into the eastern port of al-Mukalla, the headquarters of southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid, last week before seizing control of Aden on Thursday.

But southern leaders say the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR), which no country has recognised, still exists.

Breakaway leaders are "in permanent meeting" at Jiddah, al-Jifri said. "We are also in contact with president 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who is temporarily based in Oman."

He said the advance of northern troops into southern Yemen was "contrary to international law," and condemned "the extortion, arrests and looting perpetrated by the Sanaa regime, especially in Aden."

Unidentified armed gangs have gone on the rampage in the port city, which is already suffering from severe shortages of drinking water and medical equipment.

Hospitals, public offices and shops have been ransacked despite stern warnings from the authorities and numerous military checkpoints on roads around the city.

"When we left, we had food reserves to last six months, which the Sanaa regime has totally looted to put back on the market at exorbitant prices," al-Jifri charged.

He added that boats loaded with supplies, mostly collected by Yemeni emigrants, had been "stranded in the Red Sea for several days."

He called on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to take charge of the cargos "to distribute them directly to Aden's residents" or to hand them over to a new body called the Committee to Safeguard Aden.

The non-governmental committee was formed in the last few days and is headed by 'Umar al-Jawi, secretary general of the opposition Yemeni Unionist Party. Al-Jawi told AFP that looters continued to rampage around Aden. "Equipment to unload containers have disappeared from Aden port" he said, calling on the government to stop the looting and pull its troops out of the city.

YSP Deputy Sees Need for Ties With Neighbors

NC1207064194 Paris AFP in English 2137 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 11 (AFP)—The war in Yemen may be over but it has exacerbated the country's underlying problems and the future looks grim, one of the few southern deputies still in Sanaa told AFP late Monday.

'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabbar Rashid, a member of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), said: "The reasons for the war were lack of trust between parties, lack of consensus and greed.

"These things have not changed. All that has changed is that the socialist party was taken out of the equation for a time. I'm very pessimistic."

He is one of only three, out of the 11 YSP deputies led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who are still in Sanaa.

"This is a decisive and difficult time. The future is contingent on how the political leadership handles the situation," he said.

He lauded moves by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to mend fences with Arab neighbours and declare a general amnesty, b.. said there was still much to be done.

Rashid said remaining party officials were likely to meet in Sanaa in the coming week to elect a new leader to replace al-Bid if the government allows them to return.

Many southern leaders including al-Bid fled to neighbouring countries as the southern strongholds of Aden and al-Mukalla fell to northern troops last week ending the two-month war which erupted on May 5.

"We haven't been able to contact all of the eleven former Aden representatives. One is out of the country and wanted by the government and we think four of those in Aden are either dead or in hiding," he said.

A delegation of 32 socialist officials and members of the parliament were due to arrive in Sanaa for the meeting by Tuesday, he said.

Others also wanted to return to the capital if the government allowed them and assured their safety, he added.

He said some government members were worried Islamic forces could take over the Yemeni government if the socialists do not return to balance the coalition government.

Yemen had to concentrate on "consolidating (..) [punctuation as received] unity within the country, restoring law and order and improving relations with the Gulf states," he said.

And he blamed the Sanaa government for the widespread looting in Aden saying the recent torching of a brewery in the city could be a sign of extremism to come.

'Aziz Begins Technical Talks With UNSC Members

JN1107195994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1921 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] United Nations, 11 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, today began political and technical talks with Security Council members and UN officials.

The deputy prime minister conferred today with Chinese Ambassador Li Zhaoxing, the permanent representatives at the Security Council, and will meet later today with the Council's president, Pakistani Ambassador Jamshed Marker.

Meanwhile, 'Amir Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, held technical talks with Rolf Ekeus, head of the Special Commission.

'Amir Rashid will hold other meetings with Security Council members to explain technical aspects in the relations between Iraq and the Special Commission.

Meets Security Council President, Ekeus

JN1207082794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 12 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz last night met with the UN Security Council president for this month, Pakistan's Envoy Jamshed Marker. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz also met at his residence with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission. The meeting was attended for Iraq by Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations. For the Special Commission, the meeting was attended by Vice Chairman Dullevir, Legal Adviser John Scott, and Spokesman Tim Trivan. [last three names as transliterated]

Tariq 'Aziz yesterday held talks with China's Envoy Li Zhaoxing and Russian Charge d'Affaires Vasili Sidrof. [name as transliterated]

Envoy Hamdun Reportedly Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC0807172494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] According to Iraqi opposition sources, Nizar Hamdun, the permanent representative of the Iraqi regime at the United Nations, miraculously escaped death during a recent assassination attempt. The sources added that Hamdun received serious injuries.

Yemeni Minister Hails INA's Coverage of Crisis

JN1007110294 Baghdad INA in English 0925 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] New York, July 10, INA—Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has voiced thanks and appreciation for the excellent coverage presented by Iraqi News agency of the Yemeni events.

Yemen's U.N Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal who conveyed the minister's evaluation said the INA New York Bureau provided our U.N mission with other news agencies coverage and media comments on the recent events besides whatsoever been passed by the United Nations in this regard.

INA New York Bureau also furnished Yemeni subjects there with their country's news in a time all communications with Sanaa were halted because of the war.

Paper on Iranian 'False' Claims, Mashhad Explosion

JN1107131794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "An Old Useless Method"]

[Text] Blaming Iraq for the 20 June explosion in Mashhad means that the Iranian regime is still pursuing the same old useless method of tackling its deep-rooted social and economic problems and crises by attempting to mislead and deceive Iranians, divert their attention abroad, and hold others responsible for its incapacity and miserable failure at home.

Spreading such false claims at a time when Iraq is showing good will and a sincere and earnest desire to solve outstanding issues between the two sides means it is the Khomeynite regime in Tehran which hinders the normalization of relations between the two neighbor countries and prevents these relations from being based on the principles of good neighborliness and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. In fact, that regime's claims are not sincere and earnest, but only feign a desire to improve and develop relations with Iraq.

By this false charge the Tehran regime tries in vain to justify its sponsorship and support for the clique of agents and saboteurs, whom it has often used in its hostile and conspiratorial plans against Iraq, and to cover up its repeated infringements and violations of UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987. In short, the ayatollahs regime tries hard to fabricate pretexts and excuses to justify its continued aggressive acts and stands against Iraq.

If anything, this false charge reaffirms that the Iranian regime is still what it was 15 years ago and that it has not changed its policy or abandoned its sickening dreams and delusions. It is obvious that the Tehran regime is

trying to absorb the growing public resentment and rejection of its policies and to contain the explosive differences and conflicts within its ranks. But its attempts are bound to fail.

We can tell from our experience with the Iranian regime over the past 15 years that its desperate attempts to fabricate a crisis with Iraq and to divert public attention abroad will not make the Iranians forget the backward and dictatorial nature of that regime, or convince anyone outside Iran about its claims and deceptions concerning the explosion in Mashhad.

Merger of Papers To Overcome Paper Shortage Urged

JN1107125794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "All in Good Intention"]

[Text] Culture is a legitimate human right like air and water in nature and freedom and work in public life for individuals, societies, peoples, and nationalities. However, these rights have been usurped and violated throughout history by occupation powers and reactionary, feudalist, and capitalist rulers. Furthermore, the old colonialists and imperialists tried to impose their own cultures on the colonized countries. However, their criminal endeavor was faced with fierce resistance which culminated in those countries gaining their freedom and independence and preserving and developing their national heritage and culture. But did the imperialists and their collaborators succumb to this defeat?

Earth satellites have become the most advanced manifestation of the capitalist powers' cultural invasion of the Third World countries in our present time, replacing radios, magazines, and newspapers. These countries stand helpless before this disastrous medium, which the imperialists are trying to spread internationally in the name of "human rights" and "cultural freedom." By rights they mean of course the rights of the monopolies and capitalist powers to subvert other peoples culturally and intellectually, to instill the spirit of surrender and submission in their hearts, and to weaken their resistance against imperialist plans and projects.

It is enough to point to the multifarious blockade against the Iraqi people by the so-called "humanitarians" and advocates of cultural freedom in order to discover and confirm the big deceptions, forgeries, and lies inherent in these beastly capitalists' theories about human rights and cultural freedom. Canceling study seats for Iraqi students in capitalist colleges, banning essential scientific and cultural publications to students inside Iraq, withholding all the necessary means for the Iraqi student and citizen to continue his life and maintain contact with the outside world are additional proof of the crime of the age which is being committed by the imperialists against the people of the first civilization in the long history of mankind.

In such an atmosphere, which is marked by treachery, conspiracy, and crime, the Iraqi press has been compelled to make the best of the available supplies of paper and printing materials in order to continue publishing under the normal format throughout the years of the blockade on Iraq. However, these supplies have dwindled with time. So, it has been decided to reduce the number of pages and the number of printed issues. Recently, the situation reached a point where several papers had to trim down their sizes and reduce the number of their pages in order to cope with the crisis at least for a period of time, after which the deluge would follow.

Away from any emotions and outbidding which are known to many of my colleagues, I would like to make some journalistic proposals knowing in advance that they might annoy some of my fellow leading journalists, and infuriate others. Still, I will understand their feelings. Briefly, the proposals call for merging every two papers with similar views and responsibilities into one paper and making it a weekly, on condition that nothing would be done to dismiss the journalists and employees. The "new papers" could publish under a normal format or in the present medium size with an increase in the number of pages. In this way, we will not only be gaining time, but also offering a variety of topics to the citizen, who is already complaining about the present stereotype press due to the similarity of articles, news reports, and columns in most papers despite their different names and affiliations.

Other than that, I do not see any reason why we cannot conclude a deal with the private sector on the question of paper rolls, films, plates, and other printing materials—my apology to the official ban list which has added to the international cultural embargo another embargo on printing materials—against payment in dinars in accordance with the dollar exchange rate on the day the printing materials arrive, especially following the government decisions concerning the dollar. I do not see any reason why also we cannot make use of the offer made by foreign companies, which are willing to supply Iraq with paper and other materials, whether for the press or any other quarter, on the basis of barter and deferred payment.

Minister: Grain Hoarders Subject to Legal Prosecution

JN0807084094 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 5

[Article by 'Ammar al-Musawi]

[Text] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has reaffirmed that the leader president's generous offer to increase state purchase prices of wheat, barley, and rice should serve as a strong incentive for peasants and farmers to increase their production and to sell all of their agricultural produce. The minister called for the need to exert every effort to ensure the success of the

national harvest campaign in order to defeat the unjust economic embargo on our struggling country.

This came during an expanded meeting held by the minister in Baghdad with the heads of administrative units and members of the agricultural committees responsible for the harvest and marketing campaign. The minister said that the agricultural committees following the work of peasants and farmers should check agricultural cards against actual production. He noted that peasants and farmers should sell all their agricultural produce to the state. The minister explained that the Revolution Command Council decree on the amputation of the hand of the thief will apply to peasants and farmers who hoard their produce and fail to sell all their crops to the state. He said that they will be subject to legal prosecution.

Later, Baghdad Governor Qa'id Husayn al-'Awwadi spoke about the governorate's agricultural production of wheat and barley in the previous years and the advanced stage it has reached in the cultivation of rice in the last season.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Interior Ministry for public administration, the comrade secretary of the al- Rashid party branch, the president of the General Federation of Peasant Societies, the deputy governor of Baghdad, and the police commissioners of al-Karkh and al-Rasafah, Baghdad.

Paper: Mounting World Sympathy Seen on Blockade

JN0807082894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-'Aziz: "The Blockade Crime and World Sympathy With Iraq"]

[Text] Following the exposure of the coverup and aims of the aggression against Iraq, more honest voices are being heard daily on the Arab and international levels and in official and public circles, especially within political parties, economic institutions, and professional, popular, and humanitarian organizations, calling for the removal of the unfair blockade on the Iraqi people and condemning the continued crime of starvation, deprivation, and the ugly war of annihilation that has been going on for four years now.

Hardly a day passes without at least one political organization in this or that country voicing its stand through a statement, a letter carrying signatures, or an appeal denouncing and condemning U.S. policy of maintaining the blockade. There have been all types of appeals: calls for releasing frozen assets, others for exposing Washington's aims and inclinations, and yet others for organizing campaigns to collect medicines for shipment to Iraq. All these efforts are tantamount to an actual trial of the crime of the century against the Iraqi people.

This mounting official and public outcry on the regional and international levels against the unfair blockade and U.S. piracy has also been reflected in the growing opposition in world forums against the U.S. policy of blackmail. The stands recently adopted by several permanent member states and others within the UN Security Council confirm the growth of a great world trend to see justice done in Iraq, especially since it has fulfilled all of its obligations and what remains is for the Security Council to do its part.

The sympathy expressed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II toward Iraq in its present distress and his firm opposition to the blockade, the continued denunciation and condemnation of the crime being committed against Iraq, and the increasing efforts being exerted by organizations, federations, unions, and parliaments in several countries in order to put pressure on the international decisionmakers are an accurate reflection of the magnitude and significance of these political and humanitarian activities and their great effect in baring Washington's policy and exposing the aims of the blockade. It has become common knowledge that Washington is the only one that still insists on its foolhardy stand of maintaining the blockade against Iraq as an expression of its hostility, double standard, hatred, and failure to achieve its evil aims.

Iraq's firm struggle against all hostile aims has been, and will continue to be, the main factor in gaining world support and exposing the criminal U.S. double-standard policy of aggression and violation of peoples' rights.

Increase of Underage Dependents' Allowances Ordered

JN1107121894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Siham Mahmud: "Increase of Underage Dependents' Allowance to 500 Dinars"]

[Text] In implementation of the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn regarding the need to care for minors and provide them with a decent livelihood, the Justice Ministry has decided to increase underage dependents' allowances in the annuity from 300 to 500 dinars monthly and to authorize the director of annuities concerned to pay out these allowances.

Peres, Christopher, Jordanian Minister To Meet

TA1107150194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that two days after the meeting between Israeli and Jordanian representatives in the 'Arava, a meeting will be held between the foreign ministers of Israel, Jordan, and the United States on the Jordanian side of the border. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Peres refused to say in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee where the meeting would take place, but hinted that it would be at a less romantic location than a tent and more air conditioned than a tent. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the meetings would probably be held in a hotel on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. According to Mr. Peres, Jordan has reached the conclusion that the agreement with the Palestinians is a fait accompli. The Jordanians do not know where the negotiations with the Syrians stand, and have therefore decided to first open talks on joint projects. Peres noted that a border agreement can be reached with the Jordanians which will pleasantly surprise even Ari'el Sharon.

In reference to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit, Peres said it can help to raise funds for the Palestinian Authority, contribute to progress in the negotiations with Jordan, and to further the talks with Syria.

On negotiations with the Palestinians, Peres said Israel rejected a proposal to hold elections for a wide-ranging body, or sort of parliament, in the territories. He noted that Israel would agree to hold general elections only after the final agreement, in which the powers of the Palestinian Authority are defined, is reached.

Rabin Comments on Early Empowerment, Cairo Talks

TA1207045794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] The present round of the Cairo talks is due to end today. It lasted two days and was devoted to mainly drawing up an agenda and establishing procedures. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in Jerusalem the opening of the talks signals Israel's intention of implementing the early empowerment. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked him if Israel would agree to the Palestinian request for early empowerment in 20 areas of government, in addition to the five areas agreed upon in the Declaration of Principles.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Let's start with what we are committed to, and lets find out to what extent we can go in details to find ways how things will work. For me the issue is not words, but words that can be translated to deeds. This is why I stress that the negotiations about Gaza-Jericho First will be the kind of detailed agreements on issues. It is better to spend seven months, as we spent, on reaching the agreement about Gaza-Jericho First, and to implement them in two or three weeks because it worked well.

[Katzenell] What is the significance for Israel, sir, of King Husayn's first public statement that he is prepared to have a meeting with you?

[Rabin] I welcome the statement and I will welcome the meeting. [end recording]

Peres on Orient House Actions, Holy Sites

TA1207085694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this morning that every step will be taken to prevent Orient House from becoming another center for running the Palestinian autonomy. At the same time, the foreign minister stressed that the other rights of the residents of East Jerusalem to manage their lives in the city will not be impaired.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Peres also addressed the issue of Israel agreeing to allow Jordan to protect holy sites in Jerusalem. He said that he is certain that if we managed to reach agreement with the Vatican regarding religious life, we can attain the same state of affairs with other religions. Through the Waqf, the king has an influence on the holy sites in Jerusalem, and Israel has no interest in harming this influence, Minister Peres said.

Peres Interviewed on Negotiations With Jordan

TA1107182994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, in the studio—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Mr. Peres, can we reach a border agreement with Jordan which would even surprise Ari'el Sharon? Can you tell us what the surprise would be?

[Peres] First of all, I was pleased that Sharon said he initiated the Gaza First idea, which was a surprise to me. I believe the border disputes between Jordan and us can be resolved, not only a mechanical solution, but also other things, such as joint plants to be built in disputed areas.

[Sukenik] Is that what you mean when you say that even Sharon would be surprised by the agreement?

[Peres] Yes, to a certain extent.

[Sukenik] Why should he be surprised? Last year you signed an agreement with King Husayn.

[Peres] You have trapped me. I have not come here to be trapped. I believe the time has come to settle the dispute with Jordan. I believe we must make several things clear

to Jordan, which will make the negotiations much easier. I will name two or three of them. First, that we recognize the legitimacy of the Hashemite Kingdom. Contrary to a view held by a certain Israeli party that Jordan is Palestine, we must state clearly that Jordan is Jordan, and not Palestine. In other words, the monarch is for us the accepted ruler in Jordan. Second, we must make it clear that we have not come to erode Jordanian sovereignty or to harm Jordanian prestige. On the contrary, we are definitely interested in its prestige and sovereignty remaining uneroded and unharmed.

[Yavin] Does that mean that at least some of the territories they are demanding—some 400 sq km—will be returned to them?

[Peres] The question is simple, the answer is not so simple because there are three different situations along the border: There is one situation in the north; there is a different situation along the Dead Sea because it moves and it is difficult to ascertain the lake's center; and in the 'Arava, the situation is different again. I do not want to go into details into how three different situations can be resolved by creating a common denominator, but in my view, it can be done.

In addition, the monarch is very sensitive to the issue of the Jerusalem holy places. I must say that he is the first to talk about a religious and not political dialogue. A religious dialogue is possible. In other words, we respect the rights of all religions without dividing the city and without Jerusalem becoming the capital of anybody else, in addition to being the capital of Israel. Jerusalem will be only ours.

[Yavin] Mr. Peres, how can the negotiations with Jordan influence our negotiations with the PLO?

[Peres] In general, we live in a triangle, and we have to deal with all three sides and not only two of them. If we deal only with two, and leave one side dangling, it will constantly either pressure, stab, or cause problems. Therefore, I believe our viewpoint is clear: We want a trilateral agreement, and not a bilateral agreement. We would be happy if we had started with the Jordanians before the Palestinians, but now that there is an agreement with the Palestinians, which is a fact, the time has come to reach an accord with Jordan. That is also Jordan's position. The King has said that a new situation has been formed, which has to be taken into account.

[Sukenik] Husayn has already disappointed you. I go back to 3 November. He trapped you then when he reached a paper with you and did not go through with it. The question is: What guarantee do you have that he will not do the same again? Especially in view of Syria's fervent opposition?

[Peres] In general, the 46 years of relations with Jordan have been years of maximum goodwill, from 'Abdallah to Husayn. It is true that he did not always implement what he said, but in general, our relations have been ones of responsibility, even mutual respect and goodwill. Events took place, which I think, prevented him from carrying out what he said. It occurred prior to the Jordanian elections, and he was not sure of the outcome; there was the impression that the negotiations with the Palestinians were about to collapse; and that we had made progress with the Syrians.

[Sukenik] You are indirectly confirming that you came to some agreement with him and that he could not implement it.

[Peres] I am not confirming anything, I am analyzing. I am merely a commentator.

'Terrorists' Wanted for Murder Killed in Nabulus

TA1107165594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] In the Nabulus casbah this morning the security forces killed two armed terrorists responsible for acts of murder and numerous attacks. The two, 'Ali 'Alasi and Bashir 'Amudi, were members of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. 'Ali 'Alasi was on the wanted list for over two years. He had participated in the murder of soldiers Lev Pesahov and Tomer David in Dayr Ballut about a year ago, the murder of Tzipora Sason near Ari'el about five months ago, and had placed a car bomb in Ramat Ef'al. 'Amudi was 'Alasi's assistant. Our correspondent in the territories reports that the security forces and the Shin Bet identified the house the two were hiding in before dawn, carried out an assault, and urged them to give themselves up. In response, the terrorists opened fire from a Kalashnikov assault rife and two revolvers. The security forces blew up the room in which the two were hiding, killing them. A hand grenade was later also found in the room.

Colonel Tal, commander of the Nabulus area, told our correspondent that the action was initiated and carried out by the Army's Duvdevan undercover unit with the assistance of the Shin Bet.

National Wounded by 'Terrorists' in Khan Yunus

TA1207063794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] An Israeli citizen was injured this morning by shots fired by terrorists north of Khan Yunus. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the terrorists fired two guns at an Israeli car when it was crossing the Qatif Bloc junction north of Khan Yunus. The terrorists fled in a car that was waiting for them.

DPRK Diplomat Denies Arms Sales to Middle East

TA1107155294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] A North Korean diplomat at his Egyptian Embassy says his country has not sold arms to any

country in the Middle East. The diplomat, who would not give his name, spoke to Qol Yisra'el's correspondent Miri Scharff.

[Begin recording] [DPRK diplomat] I think Israel also said it. Israeli people believe like this. But, you know, our country has not supplied any arms to other countries neighboring of Israel.

[Scharff] Not to Syria, and not even to Iran?

[DPRK diplomat] I do not think so. [end recording]

'Third Path' Movement Holds Inaugural Convention

TA1107143794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 94 P A4

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Text] The inaugural convention of the council of "Third Path" activists, a movement established with the goal of reintroducing the Alon plan, was held at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv yesterday evening. Approximately 250 people participated in the convention. "Gush Shalom" [a nonpartisan peace movement] activists demonstrated outside the building.

At the conclusion of the convention, the council expressed its concern about the growing extremism and deepening rift in Israeli society, and called on all parties and groups to conduct their struggles according to democratic values and within the framework of the law, while showing tolerance and trying to establish the widest possible base for national agreement.

It was agreed that the "council attributes the highest importance to the strengthening of Jewish settlements in the Jordan River Valley, the 'Etzyon Bloc, the Jerusalem area, the Qatif Bloc, and the other areas of Judaea and Samaria as stipulated by the autonomy agreement."

Prior to Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in the region, the council called on the government to "continue insisting on conditions for peace with Syria which would guarantee our security hold and the continued presence of our settlements on the Golan Heights."

Knesset Member Views Aid, Israeli Arabs' Role

NC1107085594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, head of the Arab Democratic Party, in Nazareth, by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Good morning, Mr. Darawshah, and welcome.

[Darawshah] Good morning, and thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Let us first start with the following topic. There are many challenges before the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. Do you believe the Arabs now living inside Israel will play a distinguished role during the coming stage by closing ranks with the PNA and helping it overcome the obstacles facing the Palestinians?

[Darawshah] First, I wish to stress that the great welcome accorded 'Arafat upon his return to Gaza and Jericho by our people, the Palestinians, whether in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, or from inside Israel, was akin to a popular referendum supporting President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO, and the peace course the PLO has opted for. I can also safely claim that through this welcome, the Palestinian people expressed their support for the peaceful march of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. This gives president Yasir 'Arafat and the PNA good grounds for continuing the peace march and bolstering their national sovereignty over the liberated Palestinian territories in Gaza and Jericho first, and then moving on to extend their sovereignty over the rest of the West Bank areas. However, the extent of the PNA's succcess depends on many factors. The first is what sort of aid the PNA will get. Will the donor countries execute the pledges they gave to the Palestinians when the latter signed the agreement? Will Israel show good intentions to respond to the PNA during the negotiations that will start today in Cairo? Will it release the Palestinian detainees? Will it return the funds that it withheld from the workers and Palestinian people during the despicable occupation? All these questions and factors will greatly influence the extent of the PNA's success. However, I am very optimistic that the PNA, under the leadership of president Yasir 'Arafat, is qualified and capable of overcoming this difficult stage, because the Palestinian people have confidence in it and support it, thus giving it good chances for success.

[Al-Jundi] As Israeli-Arabs, what is the role you will play during the upcoming stage?

[Darawshah] First, we have clearly announced, and do so again, that we support the peace agreement. We support the peace stand president 'Arafat and the PLO have taken. We support our Palestinian people in their option to back the peace march. We are playing a role in the political arena in Israel to push the Israeli Government and the Knesset toward being flexible in their stands on everything that has to do with the PLO, the PNA, and our Palestinian people.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Darawshah, I here wish to pose a specific question. Can you as members of the Israeli Knesset, as an Arab front inside the Knesset, take any action to present contributions in cash or kind to the PNA?

[Darawshah] We have been doing this anyway through the relief committees we set up to help our people in the liberated Palestinian areas in Gaza and Jericho first, and then the rest of the West Bank. The relief committees set up inside Israel are collecting aid. We in the Arab

Democratic Party have set up such committees that are trying to provide as much aid as possible, be it material or financial aid, to our people in the occupied territories. There are also many businessmen, private company owners, and big contractors who have donated funds as a contribution for things the PNA needs.

But we—the approximately 800,000 Palestinians living as citizens in Israel—do not possess sufficient resources to fulfill all the needs of the PNA. The assistance we offer certainly helps but cannot be a substitute for the required international aid. So I appeal to the rich donor countries, the United States, the World Bank, the European nations, Japan, and the rich Arab countries in particular, to extend aid to the PNA. By doing this, they will prop up the PNA and consolidate the peace process in a way that benefits all the region's nations and the rich Arab countries in the Gulf that support the peace process. They must express this support in real terms by providing substantial financial aid to the Palestinian people and the PNA.

[Al-Jundi] You and a Knesset delegation met Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza City. Did anything specific come out of this meeting? Were you asked to play a specific role in coordination with the PNA?

[Darawshah] I was among a large delegation from the Arab Democratic Party and other politicians who met President Yasir 'Arafat and PNA members. We spoke long with 'Arafat and I had a private meeting with him later. He asked me and other Knesset members to persuade the Israeli Government to end the economic penalties and lift the security cordon struck around Gaza and other Palestinian areas, specifically the Arab part of Jerusalem. He also asked us to persuade the Israeli Government and Rabin to return the large sums of money, estimated at $7 billion, that were deducted from the wages of Palestinian workers and citizens. If Israel returns this money, the Palestinian economy will flourish. Third, he asked us to try to influence the Israeli Government to release all the Palestinian prisoners.

[Al-Jundi] What results have you achieved in these efforts?

[Darawshah] We relayed these requests to Yitzhaq Rabin. We did this in our capacity as an effective political force in Israel. Without our backing, Rabin's government would not have stayed in power. We urged that these demands be met. The Israeli Government said it would make the relevant proposals when the talks resume in Cairo and Paris. We hope these promises will take on a tangible form and bring real benefits, that the detainees will be released, the deducted sums returned, and a different policy adopted, permitting Palestinian workers to return to their work inside Israel.

[Al-Jundi] Brother listeners, we thank our guest, Israeli Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wabbah Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party. Thank you very much. You are always welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Darawshah] Thank you, Brother, and thanks to all the brother listeners.

Shin Bet Head To Study at Harvard University

TA1107184994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] The Shin Bet head will take a short studies break at Harvard University in the United States in another two months. The Prime Minister's Office said the Shin Bet head would remain in his job following his studies. Our political correspondent notes that the Shin Bet head will therefore be in office at least seven years, although the prime minister had made a commitment two years ago to restrict the terms of the heads of the security services, as recommended by General Refa'el Vardi, who had been appointed as a special investigator into that issue.

Government Reportedly To Reduce Armed Forces

PM1107093094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Jordan To Cut Size of Its Military Forces and End Second and Third Degree Boycott"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Jordanian sources have confirmed that Jordan is inclined to cut the size of its Armed Forces by 25 percent as a result of the peace negotiations with Israel. The sources added that the United States has agreed to write off the debts due from Jordan in return for a reduction in custom duties on U.S. goods and abolition of the economic boycott of Israel.

The sources said that the Armed Forces cuts will be in line with the IMF proposal and guidelines for reforming Jordan's economy. According to studies made by special committees, the Armed Forces cuts will be made by pensioning off officers and high-ranking members—anyone with 20 years or more of military service may be pensioned off. The length of military service for retirement purposes will also be reduced to allow retirement of about 25 percent of the officers and members of the Armed Forces.

The sources also say that these studies provide for the payment of a full six months salary to every military person who retires in addition to a car for personal and family use and a residence provided under the military housing scheme on easy interest-free 30-year installments. They emphasize that the aim of the measures is to enable the new military pensioners to afford the burdens of life and not to look for other work.

The same sources also say that the studies recommend abolition of military service which is compulsory in Jordan for everyone at the age of 18. The abolition of military service, they add, would save the treasury large sums allocated for the payment of military service recruits, their uniforms, residence, and training. They point out that the Jordanian Armed Forces stopped taking recruits two years ago and has been postponing young people's service and making it possible for them to leave the country for work or study. They also postponed military service for anyone seeking such postponement.

Meanwhile, informed Jordanian sources have stated that the United States has agreed in principle to write off the debts due from Jordan, believed to be about $1 billion, mostly military debts for arms and spare parts purchased by Jordan many years ago.

According to these sources, Jordan had previously received U.S. promises that its military debts, or a part of them, would be written off in return for serious negotiations with Israel on the issues on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreed in Washington 14 September 1993.

The sources said that President Bill Clinton promised King Husayn that legislation would be passed that would allow the U.S. Administration to exempt Jordan from payment of these debts. This is the first time in Washington's history that it has pursued such a policy. It had never written off another state's debts.

The informed Jordanian sources revealed that Jordan agreed to reduce customs duties on a number of U.S. commodities including cars and electrical equipment.

Jordan also accepted a U.S. request for the abolition of the second and third degree boycott of Israel, in other words ending the boycott of U.S. companies which deal with Israel or companies which deal with other companies which have branches in Israel or trades with it. Jordan refused to end the first degree boycott imposed by the Arab League on Israel since 1950, including direct trade with Israel. It made that conditional on the Arab League's approval.

King on Negotiating Policy, Ties With Syria

NC1107114494 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 9 Jul 94 pp 1, 15

[Interview with King Husayn by Joseph Qusayfi in Amman on 7 July]

[Text] [Qusayfi] Could you tell us about your visit to Alexandria and your meeting with President Husni Mubarak?

[Husayn] The visit was in response to a generous invitation from brother President Husni Mubarak. While I was in Washington, he expressed a wish to meet with me on my way back to Jordan. Circumstances prevented this, however, and that is why I made the visit to Alexandria. It was a fraternal meeting, during which we had a frank discussion. I sensed his positive sentiments toward Jordan's positions on regional peace. Naturally, we discussed all relevant issues. I can only say that the doors are open and we are willing to consult with others. We exchanged views and information and the general atmosphere was good.

[Qusayfi] Some say Amman has acted unilaterally by resuming negotiations with Israel. At first it was believed that the negotiations would be resumed or halted on all tracks simultaneously.

[Husayn] We all began the negotiations from the same starting point. At all stages during these negotiations, Jordan placed the interests of its brother Arabs before its own interests. Judging by the results it obtained, it has made more sacrifices for the Palestinian cause than could have been borne by any other fraternal country. You remember that an agenda for the negotiations was signed in Washington immediately after the agenda was decided on. Had matters proceeded as planned, the negotiations would have begun right then and there. However, certain circles apparently were focusing on other negotiating tracks. Agreement was reached to form a tripartite committee. The other side agreed to our demands for Jordanian sovereignty over our land and water. This makes it necessary to discuss the actual

details and so we will resume the negotiations soon. By the way, we always seek comprehensive negotiations that involve all Arab parties.

[Qusayfi] What are your relations with Syria like?

[Husayn] They are normal.

[Qusayfi] The Syrians are blaming Jordan for deciding to go it alone without coordinating with Damascus and Beirut. This may weaken the Arab negotiating position and open the door to attempts to single Syria out.

[Husayn] We represent the conscience of this nation. Jordan has never hesitated to support its brothers, even though the picture has now changed. We are members of the Arab League and signatories of the Collective Arab Defense Pact. In June 1967, we painstakingly tried to discuss the usefulness of entering the war at that time, but Jordan complied. We also supported and backed the Palestinian brethren until they chose to work alone, and we still support them. It is high time Jordan looked to its own interests and situation. We are not going ahead of the brothers, who proceeded from the same point with us. We hope that the other tracks will move ahead so as to reach a comprehensive peace. If Jordan waits until everybody finishes with their problems before engaging in this major work, it will not be doing its duty to its people and territory, which was saved from occupation and annexation through the formation of the [Transjordan] emirate. There are no Arabs or international alliances to back us. We must start addressing issues regarding our demands for sovereignty and water. I was surprised at the criticism on this point. Regarding our brothers in Syria, we are eager to have the best of relations with them and to hold constant consultations. We did not hide anything from them; we offered to explain the dimensions of our position, but they did not inform us of the stages they had reached. Coordination is not a one-way process; we offered and tried to establish such coordination among all concerned Arab parties.

Egypt took its own road and the Palestinians are handling their affairs by themselves. So why should Jordan not work to address its own issues, especially if this leads to its recovering its territory? This will bolster the possibility of the others regaining their territory. In fact, I am surprised at the atmosphere that arose around Jordan's position, and I find no justification for it.

[Qusayfi] How do you view the developments in Yemen?

[Husayn] We hoped that there would be a dialogue, as that would have been the easiest way to spare Yemen from what has happened. Anyway, we are ready to make any effort that may get some results.

[Qusayfi] Is Lebanon moving on a healthy track? What do you expect here?

[Husayn] Lebanon is always in our hearts, and we wish for it what we wish for ourselves: to be a stable and secure country where all its sons join forces to build it. We are satisfied with what has been achieved; we hope Lebanon achieves more of its ambitions.

Al-'Anani on Israeli Border, Water Talks

JN1007101294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian-Israeli bilateral negotiations on border demarcation and water sharing will begin in the Jordan Valley at a spot some 20 kilometres north of al-'Aqabah on June [as published] 18, Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said Saturday [9 July].

After three days of bilateral talks, the two sides will move to another site, also on the border, for a meeting of the Jordanian-American-Israeli trilateral commission which will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Jordanian and Israeli foreign ministers, Dr. al-'Anani said.

Asked whether it meant Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who also holds the foreign affairs portfolio, will be attending the meeting, Dr. al-'Anani told the Jordan Times: "Probably," but that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan could also head the delegation.

Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, will lead the Kingdom's delegation to the bilateral talks, which, in the first three days, will focus on procedural matters and set the guidelines for negotiations.

Negotiations will start in earnest when the bilateral negotiators return from the meetings of the trilateral commission.

The talks are expected to be held in strategically placed airconditioned caravans straddling the boundaries apparently in a bid not to give ammunition to critics of the peace process who oppose any Israeli official visiting Jordanian territory.

Dr. al-'Anani said it was not immediately known how long the trilateral commission would meet, but that Mr. Christopher would be attending the initial round of discussions. The minister declined to pinpoint the site for the trilateral talks.

"It could be 100 kilometres, 120 kilometres or 200 kilometres from the border," the minister said.

It will be the fourth meeting of the trilateral working group, which was set up in October during a visit to the U.S. by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and announced by President Bill Clinton after hosting a meeting attended by the Crown Prince and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the White House.

In its meetings since then, the commission produced Jordanian-Israeli agreements on the reopening of Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied territories and

the Kingdom's role in the banking and monetary affairs of the Palestinians living there.

It was also under the umbrella of the commission that Jordan and Israel agreed last month to launch talks on the key aspects of the bilateral conflict—demarcation of borders and water rights.

During that meeting, both Jordan and Israel presented various proposals enshrining their visions on economic development of the Jordan Rift Valley, which is currently shared by both.

"It was agreed that the U.S. will present an American proposal" including elements from both Jordanian and Israeli proposals, and this is expected to be done at the meeting next week, Dr. al-'Anani said.

Projects expected to come under focus include a 270-kilometre pipeline/canal to bring Red Sea water to the Dead Sea to address the area's water and power problems, a road linking al-'Aqabah with Israel's Elat port and Egypt's Taba, a transnational park and an airport that would serve both Elat and al-'Aqabah.

The Red Sea-Dead Sea linkage was orginally proposed by Jordan to counter an Israeli Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal proposal. Subsequently, Israel said it was shelving its plan, but it came up with a Red-Dead canal proposal similar to that of Jordan.

The Kingdom is looking forward to an acceptance of its plan or what would be an American compromise proposal. All outputs from the project will be shared among Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians—the three riparians of the Dead Sea.

However, serious discussion on joint projects in economic cooperation will begin only after Jordan and Israel arrive at agreements on borders and water rights, according to the information minister. Other issues expected to be covered in the same discussions are security and the environment.

Dr. al-'Anani said there might be some changes in the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations. He did not elaborate. However, other sources said a list of negotiators, advisors and consultants and support staff was being prepared.

In the territorial context of the negotiations, Jordan will be seeking the return of 380 square kilometres of land in the south and nearly one square kilometre in the north occupied by Israel in the years since its creation in 1948.

The Kingdom will also be seeking Israeli compliance with Jordan's rightful demands to a fair share of waters from the rivers Jordan and al-Yarmuk in the north.

A statement issued after a Cabinet meeting said later Saturday the Council of Ministers approved the composition of the Jordanian delegation.

The delegation will be headed by Dr. al-Tarawinah and will include members of the working groups on water, the environment, energy, security, and borders as well as advisers from the Jordanian Armed Forces and back-up teams, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Yemen's al-Iryani Holds Meetings With Leaders

Comments on Amnesty, Government

JN1007182594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani arrived in Amman this evening, carrying a message to His Majesty King Husayn from His Excellency Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with the latest developments in Yemen after the end of the crisis there.

He was received on arrival by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and 'Ali Abu-al-Luhum, Yemeni ambassador in the kingdom.

Dr. al-Iryani spoke to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Al-Iryani] I am happy to be in Amman, the capital of sisterly Jordan. My happiness is even greater because I came to convey to his majesty the king a message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, that expresses deep thanks, gratitude, and the appreciation of Yemen—leadership, government, and people—for the fraternal, Arab, and genuine position adopted by Jordan—king, government, and people—on the regrettable crisis through which the Republic of Yemen has passed. Praise be to God that the Yemeni people have maintained their unity and protected it with physical and financial sacrifices. The only thing left for the Yemenis is to reconcile and to devote themselves to reconstruction and spreading fraternity and love among all. Therefore, dialogue, with all Yemenis, and not only with the Socialist Party, will continue. Except in rare occasions, the Yemenis have been known to resolve their problems through dialogue. But regrettably, this crisis went beyond dialogue and became a conflict. It has become a duty that we must overcome its results and return to what we have been known for, namely dialogue.

[Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Dr. al-Iryani, you made a statement that there is general amnesty. Will this amnesty include the 16 [Socialist Party leaders excluded from a previous amnesty]? The other part of the question is: Will you form a new government in Yemen?

[Al-Iryani] First of all, the general amnesty includes all Yemenis, including these 16 individuals who were considered to be involved in the conspiracy that took place. This is something natural as I said, since it is the habit of the Yemeni to realize reconciliation. The general amnesty includes them. At the same time, you know that

brother Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar is acting prime minister. Therefore, in light of the situation, it is expected that a government will be formed.

[Dhiyab] It was said that you are the strongest candidate for this.

[Al-Iryani] No, this is completely baseless.

[Dhiyab] Concerning the Presidential Council, will it be re-formed?

[Al-Iryani] This is a constitutional issue, and the House of Representatives is responsible for it. The Constitution says that the Presidential Council is comprised of five members, therefore, the absence of any member should lead to the election of a replacement. [end recording]

King Receives al-Iryani

JN1107161794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani at the Royal Hashemite Court today in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Al-Iryani conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of Yemen. The message expresses the thanks and appreciation of the Yemeni leadership and people to His Majesty King Husayn for his majesty's pan-Arab stands toward the fraternal Yemeni people.

During the meeting, his majesty stressed Jordan's concern for Yemen's march of unity and democracy. He said he hoped that the fraternal Yemeni people will continue their efforts toward development and progress and will overcome the repercussions of the recent crisis with new confident steps toward building a modern Yemen and entrenching the bases of its march of democracy and development.

For his part, Dr. al-Iryani noted the deep relations between the Jordanian and Yemeni people and stressed the depth of the unionist vision they both share to serve the issues of the one Arab nation and its future generations.

The meeting was attended by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty the king's political adviser; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty the king's adviser; Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

Al-Iryani Comments After Meeting King

JN1107175594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Statement by Yemeni Planning and Development Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, following a meeting with King Husayn on 11 July in Amman—recorded]

[Text] I was extremely pleased with the meeting I held with his majesty the king. I communicated to his majesty a message from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni Government and people, thanking him and the Jordanian Government and people for the genuine brotherly support they extended toward Yemeni unity. I also thanked his majesty for the humanitarian assistance extended by Jordan, especially for the specialized medical team dispatched to help the Yemenis during their ordeal. I am carrying a reply message from his majesty the king to his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

JN1107184494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Yemeni Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani left Amman today following a two-day visit to Jordan.

He was seen off at Amman Airport by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, the Yemeni ambassador in Amman, and the embassy staff.

Government Discusses Yemeni Developments, Aid

JN0907160894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] In its meeting today chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the Council of Ministers discussed the latest developments in fraternal Yemen.

Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, said the government is still taking a firm position on the territorial integrity of Yemen, the prosperity of the Yemeni people, and ending bloodshed in Yemen. He told the Jordanian News Agency that the government has emphasized that it adheres to the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn to offer all support and assistance to the Yemeni government and people for the purposes of reconstruction, construction, treament of the injured, and extending all required services.

The information minister said the government has always called for inter-Arab reconciliation and good relations with sisterly Arab countries in order to restore Arab cohesion and the unity of the ranks in order to face the next challenges.

Dr. al-'Ananai emphasized that the Jordanian government will contact the brothers in the Yemeni government to offer expertise and any required assistance to the Yemeni government and people. He said some concerned quarters have already started preparations to extend the needed assistance, especially in the health sector, as Jordan participates in offering treatment and medical care to the injured.

The government wished the brotherly Arab people in Yemen speedy reconstruction and reconciliation so

Yemen can remain, as it was before, an active contributor to the higher Arab interest.

Vatican Secretary Tauran Pays Official Visit

Tauran Comments on Arrival

JN0807160994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Italicized passages in English]

[Text] His Beatitude Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican City's secretary for relations with states, arrived in Amman today on an official visit to Jordan. During the visit, Tauran will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and several senior officials. Tauran will also hold talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs on prospects for cooperation between Jordan and the Vatican, developments in the peace process, and the interfaith dialogue sponsored by the two sides for several years.

The archbishop was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Nayif al-Hadid, Foreign Ministry secretary general; and Monsignor Dr. Ra'uf al-Najjar, representative of his holiness the pope in Jordan.

On his visit to Jordan, His Beatitude Archbishop Tauran spoke to our correspondent for political affairs.

[Begin Tauran recording] *My visit to Jordan takes place in the general context of peace, I should say, because the Middle East region is now engaged in the peace process that the Holy See deems very important and significant for the future of this part of the world. Furthermore, we have now diplomatic relations with Jordan, and so we enjoy normal international standards between the Holy See and Jordan, and this is a very important step, also. And I think, during this conversation, we shall try to share views about the peace process, as I mentioned before, about our bilateral relations, the life of the Catholic church in Jordan, and also to raise some issues, like the question of the status of the holy city of Jerusalem, which is very dear to the Holy See and to Jordan. And we think that Jordan, which is a country of moderation, of tolerance, has a great role to play in this part of the world, and we shall, perhaps, consider what we can do together in order to foster this process of dialogue, cooperation, and fraternity among the peoples of this part, of this Middle East region.*[end recording]

For his part, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has welcomed the visit of the Vatican's secretary. He said:

[Begin al-Hasan recording] *I think this visit constitutes, by itself, a very important manifestation of our deep and excellent relations that His Majesty King Husayn and the pontiff were keen to foster. I am looking forward to our first round of discussion this afternoon in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will tackle various topics: the bilateral relations between Jordan and the Holy See and the peace process and other issues.*[end recording]

Minister, Tauran Hold Talks on Ties

JN0807194694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] This evening at the Foreign Ministry, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican secretary for relations with states, and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides held a meeting during which they discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. Al-Hasan praised the distinguished and historical relations between Jordan and the Vatican, crowned by the establishment of diplomatic relations and exchange of ambassadors. The minister also emphasized the good relations between His Majesty King Husayn and His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

Al-Hasan also briefed the guest delegation on the latest developments in the peace process and the foundations of Jordan's position, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. These are represented by the retrieval of occupied Jordanian territory, the return of the refugees, and our water rights. The minister also explained the positive results of His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to the United States and his meeting with his excellency, President Clinton, as well as the positive results of the meetings of the Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. committee in Washington on 6 and 7 June.

Al-Hasan also told the guest delegation that Jordan's commitment to peace is associated with its desire for development and stability and the creation of a better life for future generations. He said His Majesty King Husayn was the first to call for a just and comprehensive peace that restores rights. He added that Jordan was a catalyst and guarantor of the peace process in the region.

The minister also spoke about Jordan's historical role in supporting the Palestinian cause, noting that Jordan has borne the burden of successive forcible emigrations that placed a burden on Jordan greater than its capacity. In spite of this, Jordan has assumed its humanitarian and international responsibilities.

The minister also briefed the guest secretary and his delegation on Jordan's position toward holy Jerusalem and the special importance His Majesty King Husayn and the Hashemites attach to the holy city. He stressed that there can be no peace without Jerusalem.

Al-Hasan also noted Jordan's pride in its democratic option and its adherence to this approach, as well as Jordanians participation in shaping their present and future. This is in addition to pluralism, respect for human rights, religious tolerance, and ensuring freedom of religion and worship. All these aspects have made Jordan a model to be emulated in the region.

For his part, Monsignor Tauran stressed the depth of the special relations between His Majesty King Husayn and His Holiness Pope John Paul II. He noted that the two leaders share identical views on many international issues. He also explained the importance attached by the Vatican to establishing diplomatic relations with Jordan, since it is an element of stability and moderation in the region. Tauran spoke about the role undertaken by his holiness the pope in supporting the peace process, which has been advocated by the Vatican for a long time.

He added that the Vatican views this visit as a history-making visit, since it is the first of its kind by a Vatican foreign secretary to Jordan.

Regarding Jerusalem, Monsignor Tauran pointed out that the Vatican looks at the holy city impartially without regard to the authority over it, noting that the Vatican attaches a special importance to it because it is a holy city. He noted the need to preserve the holiness of this city for the followers of the three religions through the international community's protection of this holiness.

The monsignor also voiced appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to protect and maintain the holy places and for the third Hashemite renovation of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Meet Tauran

JN0907161594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has emphasized the special status of the city of Jerusalem. He noted that the holy city is the linchpin of peace in the Middle East. His royal highness made the remarks during a working session this morning at al-Hashimiyah Palace with Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican secretary for relations with states, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The cardinal said the Vatican views Jordan as a distinguished country, since it ensures freedom of religion and worship and because it is a community where a spirit of tolerance and love prevails. [passage omitted]

The Vatican secretary said the Vatican considers east Jerusalem to be a territory occupied in 1967 and that what applies to the rest of the occupied territories also applies to it.

At the Prime Ministry this morning, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali received the Vatican secretary for relations with states.

The prime minister welcomed the Vatican secretary and briefed him on Jordan's stand toward the latest developments in the peace process and the foundations of this stand, particularly the resolutions of international legitimacy; the results of His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to the United States; as well as Jordan's commitment to peace since it is the best way to achieve stability and development.

The prime minister also said Jordan, which has long called for a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine question, adheres equally to its democratic approach, respect for human rights, religious tolerance, and ensuring freedom of worship.

He also said Jordan would always view Jerusalem as an indivisible part of the 1967-occupied territories, noting that the holy places in the city have a special importance underlined by His Majesty King Husayn in word and deed.

He also underlined Jordan's appreciation for his holiness the pope's understanding of Jordan's desire to have lasting relations with the Vatican. This desire has been bolstered recently by establishing full diplomatic relations. [passage omitted]

King Receives Tauran, Pope's Message

JN0907200894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1900 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] His majesty the king received Vatican Foreign Minister Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran who delivered a message from Pope John Paul II.

The message included the pontiff's greetings to his majesty and his appreciation of the king's stands towards the holy places in Jerusalem, and his role in serving humanitarian issues.

During the audience, his majesty discussed the peace process with Archbishop Tauran and the future of the holy city as well as bilateral relations.

Archbishop Tauran announced that a diplomatic mission will open shortly in Amman.

Tauran Makes Statement, Departs

JN1007131494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Vatican Foreign Minister Jean-Louis Tauran left Amman today, concluding a three-day visit to Jordan. During his visit he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, and top officials to discuss ties and the Middle East situation.

Before leaving Amman, the Vatican official said he had discerned from his talks in Jordan a genuine interest in bringing peace to the region. The Vatican, he added, will continue to back the Middle East peace process. The Holy See, the Vatican official said, will name an ambassador in Amman shortly. He underscored the special nature of Jerusalem as a symbol of peace and conciliation for the three monotheistic religions and for all mankind.

King's Courage, People's Understanding Praised

JN1107114894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jul 94 p 26

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "The Historic Speech"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's historic speech was not addressed only to the representatives of the people but to the entire Jordanian people. The importance of this speech is that it frankly and explicitly stated the facts to the people and the decision reached that will secure Jordan's rights and interests.

The crux of the speech is that it says the time has come for us to decide on the peace and war issue with Israel. We have no interest in maintaining a state of no-peace no-war with Israel, and in keeping our borders cease-fire lines instead of international borders and our land in the south and the north occupied, and our waters usurped. We also have no interest in continuing to wager on the time factor while the initiative is not in our hands and the international and Arab state of affairs is not as we wish.

The greatness of King Husayn's speech does not lie in the fact that it outlined Jordan's demands and the privileges Jordan will gain. It goes without saying that no one refuses the return of the occupied land and the usurped waters, the cancellation of the foreign debts, the recognition of the western borders, and the repatriation of the displaced Palestinians to their country. The greatness and valor of the speech is in the explicit clarification to the people that these privileges will not be gratuitously given to us, that they have a price we must pay in the form of direct negotiations in al-'Aqabah and Elat, and a public meeting with the Israeli prime minister when the need arises and when real progress takes place in the negotiations, and finally the conclusion of a peace agreement and the normalization of official relations.

We know that this is a bitter price, and that the personal sacrifice his majesty the king will make will not be easy. It will be a sacrifice for the sake of the homeland, and an acceptable price for safeguarding the Jordanian entity, its national security, and the interests of its people.

Our people dislike maneuvers and want frankness. That's why the king's speech reached the hearts and minds of his people, who showed understanding and support for his majesty.

As a historic leader, his majesty is known for his ability to muster unanimity in times of crises and at critical junctures. When he speaks with frankness and from the heart, what he says is like the compass which points to the target and the right direction.

There are parties, figures, and publications which will criticize this approach but without being really convinced or being able to convince. They have a right to put on record their stands which they base on principles. But it is high time for principles to be employed in the service of the homeland and not vice versa. It is also high time for patriotism to turn into an expression of the homeland's interests against its opponents, and not the adoption of others' opinion about the homeland. Jordan should come first.

Al-Hirawi Comments on Christopher's Tour

NC1207051894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi told his visitors yesterday that he cannot see how U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region will help to achieve concrete progress in the peace process, especially following events on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks.

President al-Hirawi stressed that no one can replace Lebanon in its role and said he is confident Lebanon will prosper. He added that Lebanon is moving toward prosperity and development despite obstacles that some people might believe are real.

The president highlighted Lebanon's firm stance and its support for resistance on Lebanese territory against the occupation.

Buwayz on Christopher's Tour, Jordan's Stand

NC1107151594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents on 11 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Secretary of State Christopher will soon arrive. Could you tell us about Lebanon's position?

[Buwayz] I do not believe Lebanon's position changes with visits paid to the region. Lebanon's position remains unchanged with respect to the two sides of the peace process; that is, Lebanon looks forward to regaining its occupied territories under UN Resolution 425 and at the same time is concerned with the peace process in its more comprehensive form as dealt with in Resolutions 242 and 338 and in solidarity with the remaining Arab countries. Despite developments on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks, we still do not believe we are getting at the heart of the matter, namely, a just and comprehensive peace, which we desire and await. Until now, the negotiations have been confined to specific topics, be they territories or water, and they need to be broadened further if we want to talk about real peace.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the upcoming Husayn-Rabin meeting will affect the Arab front? And how will it affect the Lebanese domestic situation?

[Buwayz] If they intented to reach a unilateral and limited peace, naturally what is happening on those two fronts may be successful. But to attain a comprehensive peace—which is the only natural, lasting, and firm peace—we believe that the question of Lebanon and Syria cannot be sidestepped. Thus, I believe the peace process will remain incomplete and will not be well-established as long as the Lebanese and Syrian tracks continue to be left aside.

[Correspondent] Do you expect a surprise of the same type regarding the Lebanese or Syrian tracks?

[Buwayz] I do not believe there is room for surprises. There is a dialogue, and should Secretary Christopher's visit bring about new momentum in form or in substance, it could make progress and lead us somewhere. But talk about surprises regarding complicated and old tracks is out of place, I believe.

[Correspondent] Will Secretary Christopher's new tour bring him to Beirut?

[Buwayz] Until now we have not received any word on this.

[Correspondent] How do you explain his failure to come to Lebanon on two previous occasions?

[Buwayz] Perhaps the U.S. administration has thus far been working on tracks according to its own arrangements, but we reaffirm that if peace is to be comprehensive, it cannot be so without Lebanon or Syria.

[Correspondent] How do you explain King Husayn's saying that he is prepared to meet with Rabin without this meaning the signing of a peace agreement?

[Buwayz] This is what I actually said a few moments ago. I believe that everyone realizes that this political peace and the peace decision require a joint decision. But I do not believe that the talks that are being held on secondary topics are sufficient to establish a final peace decision.

[Correspondent] How far has the solidarity among the parties concerned [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] I cannot say that Arab solidarity is at its best. I believe that this Arab division, which has been going on for some time, neither serves the peace process as stipulated in the Madrid Conference nor Arab interests. Those who think that they are ahead of others will have to wait out under the sun in the end.

[Correspondent] What about your talks with the Russian ambassador today?

[Buwayz] The talks with the Russian ambassador revolved around the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Russian-Lebanese relations. There are certain steps that will be made to promote these old relations with Russia. The discussions also touched on the economic relations between the two countries and on some problems resulting from the recent developments in Russia, namely the collapse of the theory of the controlled and politically oriented economy. Some Lebanese citizens in Russia were harmed by certain incidents there. I would like to urge the Lebanese economic

sectors, businessmen, and visitors to obtain advance information from the Russian Embassy in Beirut, particularly the trade attache, to avoid any financial or security incidents during their visit to the Russian capital. [words indistinct]. Any cooperation with the new establishments in Russia require coordination with the parties concerned.

[Correspondent] Has Lebanon officially requested extradition of Ghassan Tuma [Lebanese Forces member suspected of bombings in Lebanon]?

[Buwayz] This is judiciary business. The Foreign Ministry is currently coordinating efforts with the Ministry of Justice in this regard.

Media Preview U.S. Secretary of State Visit

Israel 'Squandering' Opportunities

JN1107153694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel's acts of aggression in south Lebanon are continuing as is its military buildup in the occupied parts of the area. In the meantime, Israeli threats of an open-ended war on Lebanon are something of a daily routine for the Tel Aviv leaders. And throughout the occupied territories, including the self-rule areas, acts of repression, terror, and home demolitions also continue. These acts of brutality are interspersed with official Israeli reiterations of their adherence to these lands and refusal to be bound by the UN resolutions endorsed by the international community and the sponsors of the peace process as the underpinnings of a regional settlement. Thus, Israeli leaders make the point by word and deed that they are as removed as can be from a just and inclusive peace.

Daily acts of aggression on a sovereign state and UN member do not square with protestations of an interest in peace. Nor do violations of its airspace and territorial sovereignty, systematic terror, and the abduction of individuals from their homes. Denying an entire people the right to a decent and dignified life in their own homeland and engaging in pogroms against them over decades, even as peace negotiations are in full swing, are hardly symptomatic of a peace-oriented state. Nor is ducking UN resolutions or flouting international law and international conventions, not least the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the rights of civilians under occupation.

Peace is about actions, not empty utterances and wishes calculated to mislead world opinion. Israel's leaders have failed to convince the world that they want peace or even that peace is a long-term option for them. If the Israelis are trying to palm off their pursuit of separate deals on the world as evidence of their peace intentions, their behavior in the occupied territories belies their argument.

For too long, Israel has succeeded in misleading world opinion, painting the Arabs as enemies of peace. The Madrid conference and the bilateral Washington talks have shown Israel for what it really is—a state that could not care less about peace. In contrast, the world is now convinced that the Arabs, and Syria in particular, want a fair and inclusive peace settlement under which Arab rights and land are restored. That goal is achievable only if Syria's vision of a settlement is adopted. For Syria, peace is an unalterable strategy not to be reversed under any circumstances—a point we are anxious to make as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher prepares to come to the region. We believe that Secretary Christopher is now fully convinced of Syria's peace credentials, that the responsibility for the stalemate lies outside Damascus, and that Syria has opened all the doors to the kind of settlement that the peace process set out to achieve. Christopher's next tour will succeed if and when the other side shows the same amount of concern for peace as Syria and quits its belligerency and abides by the bases of the peace process. Failing that, Israel must take the responsibility for squandered international efforts and a missed historic opportunity to hammer out a just and comprehensive peace.

Damascus' Position in Talks Assessed

PM1207092094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Damascus Awaiting Christopher, Rejecting 'One-upmanship'"]

[Text] Damascus—Damascus is dominated by a state of expectation and anticipation with regard to what U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is going to bring with him during his upcoming tour of the Middle East in the framework of bringing Syria's and Israel's views closer in the bilateral peace negotiations. Because in Israel's view, bringing views closer depends on the "new ideas" Christopher is going to bring from the Syrian capital, even though he has not—as usual—pinned many hopes on the upcoming tour.

Although the military escalation in southern Lebanon before the U.S. secretary's arrival in the region is not new, because it tends to coincide with the beginning and end of every visit to the Middle East by a U.S. official, Christopher's awaited visit assumes special importance this time because it comes after Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the self-rule area and after the occurrence of "sudden" developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track—which will cast shadows on the Syrian track and Damascus' position on the "oneupmanship" whereby the Syrians do not want to become isolated from the foundations discussed between Syria and the United States.

This importance lies in the fact that Christopher is starting his tour carrying with him a "victory" for the Israeli view. Because the administrative self-rule agreement has moved another step toward implementation, and no one can stop it because it enjoys international and popular Palestinian support. While Syrian officials believe that Palestinian support "is only partial, and that most Palestinians are opposed to the agreement, which has not achieved the minimum of their rights."

The U.S. secretary will begin his contacts in the region for the first time since Jordan's abandonment of Arab coordination on the pretext that the Syrians did not brief the Jordanians on "developments" on the Syrian-Israeli track, which reached the stage of drawing up—by Christopher—a "framework agreement" between Syria and Israel that lacked nothing except agreement on the "Palestinian Himmah" area. Meanwhile Syria stresses that there can be no "significant progress" in its negotiations with Israel or through the U.S. secretary's shuttle

visits between the two sides, as long as Christopher has not come back with an Israeli commitment to full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Syrian leaders consider such commitment a "prelude" to discussing other matters, "otherwise these negotiations will not advance, even if the Golan remains occupied for centuries."

Syrian officials say that Israel cannot push Syria toward a first step under the "step-by-step" or "finger-biting" policy by accepting a partial withdrawal along the lines of the Palestinian track—a withdrawal that begins with an occupied Syrian city on the Golan Heights. Or by linking the depth of the withdrawal with "Syrian intentions." They are also refusing to replace the "peace realities" based on the stipulations of Resolution 242, which calls for full withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, with Israeli-U.S. "promises" in return for security arrangements that guarantee the security of all states in the region and the establishment of normal relations with them.

But what is the foundation of the Syrian negotiating position, which has not changed much since the Madrid conference in 1991?

Observers believe that the Syrian position's strength stems from "President Hafiz al-Asad's ability and experience" in dealing with the realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as the ability of Syrian diplomacy to keep channels open with all parties. This is what happened recently when diplomatic sources said that Damascus would not refuse to receive a Jordanian official, "despite the developments that have taken place with Israel" which will result into a meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in Wadi 'Arabah on 18 July.

In addition to Syria's good relations with Palestinian opposition forces—first and foremost the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), as a leading Hamas delegation headed by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq met recently with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—its economic policy, especially in investment and agriculture, has achieved food and economic stability. This has also had a great impact on the strength and independence of Syrian decisionmaking, especially as Syria's production of strategic crops has achieved record figures. Grain reserves now total some 7.5 million tonnes. A Syrian source tells AL-HAYAH that, as long as Syria has "the food, no one can exert pressure on us."

Western diplomatic sources attributed the independence and strength of Syrian decisionmaking to "economic stability, self-sufficiency in a large number of essential crops, and the availability of additional quantities for export." The sources pointed out that those in charge of the economy at present are focusing on planting the varieties that used to be imported from abroad, "in order to save hard currency to purchase raw material for Syrian defense."

G-7 Statement on Peace Process Criticized

JN1207094894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Naples Summit and the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH says in an editorial: In their summit that ended the day before yesterday, leaders of the seven industrialized nations and Russia showed interest in the world issues that the conferees considered as hot issues, but did not specify any remedy to them.

The Naples summit statement said the industrialized nations paid special attention to the situation in the Middle East and the achievment of peace.

The paper adds: The summit stressed the need to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the region, but ignored the reasons and obstacles that have prevented the achievement of the expected progress on the path of a comprehensive settlement.

The paper says: Undoubtedly, many of those who attended the summit realize full well which party is obstructing the peace process, but, as always, no one dares to name that party which clearly opposes any just and comprehensive peace that can realize security and stability in the region.

The paper says the Naples summit was expected to push the peace process forward by stressing to the parties concerned that they should abide, fully and unequivocally, by the conditions and requirements to establish a genuine peace in the region.

The paper adds: This is what we expected, or this is what the summit should have done. It should have called on Israel to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy so that the comprehensive settlement, called for by the Naples summit, can be achieved. The paper notes that Israel is the only party which refuses to abide by the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly the principle of withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, as a basic precondition to achieve peace in the region.

The paper urges a clear world position toward Israel, which creates major obstacles on the path of achieving the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper adds: The world, particularly influential countries, must confront Israel to persuade it that its noncompliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy will expose it to real measures, as was the case with various other countries.

The paper concludes by saying: Whoever wants to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the region must

push everyone to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, and only then can one say that the just and comprehensive peace in the region can indeed be achieved.

Ulema Call For Confronting Religious 'Fanaticism'

JN0807195494 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—An expanded Syrian-Lebanese meeting was held here yesterday under the cochairmanship of Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Tarabulsi, minister of awqaf; and Dr. Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, acting mufti of Lebanon.

Addressing the meeting, the minister affirmed the importance of strengthening relations of cooperation and coordination between the Syrian Awqaf Ministry and the Mufti's Office as well as other Islamic organizations and figures in Lebanon, in light of the Syrian-Lebanese Treaty of Fraternity, Cooperation, and Coordination signed and patronized by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Hrawi.

Addressing the meeting, His Eminence Shyakh Qabbani said "our meeting here today confirms our continued cooperation for the sake of our present and future and the future of the generations." He referred to the activities of the followup committees which were formed by both sides to bolster and tighten cooperation between the two countries in various Islamic fields.

Several members of the Lebanese Islamic delegation addressed the meeting. They praised Syria's honorable pan-Arab struggle stands and firm principles under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, affirming the importance of Syrian solidarity with Lebanon in response to the national and pan-Arab call and the cultural unity between the two fraternal countries.

Several Syrian men of religion also addressed the meeting. They emphasized the urgent need for close fraternal cooperation on the national and Islamic levels now more than at any time before "so we will have one voice in the confrontation of events and challenges."

Following the discussion of all topics and the deliberation of all the ideas and proposals which were submitted, the meeting released a joint statement affirming the conviction of both sides about the need to strengthen relations of cooperation and coordination between the Awqaf Ministry in Syria and the Mufti's Office and other Islamic organizations in Lebanon. It affirmed the desire to consolidate the bonds of fraternity between the two countries and to bolster joint action between the Islamic institutions.

The statement calls for unifying the procedure of the Islamic call and preparing the necessary studies to guarantee the achievement of Arab Islamic solidarity in confronting all aspects of religious fanaticism, enlightening the public, and replying to deceptive lies.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ziyadah and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Arar, assistants of the awqaf minister; Shaykh Bashir 'Abd-al-Bari and Shyakh 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Bazm the muftis of Damascus; Shaykh Ahmad Safar 'Abjuqah, Mufti of the Damascus Rural Area; a large gathering of ulema and teachers of religion; and members of the Rsearch and the Islamic Studies and Affairs Committee.

Afghanistan

ICO Secretary General Visits, Holds Talks

Meets With Rabbani

LD1107173094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and his accompanying delegation today.

A correspondent of BAKHTAR Information Agency reports that in the meeting views were exchanged on issues related to the Islamic world and our country's current situation, and topics of mutual interest were discussed.

According to another report, ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid and his accompanying delegation met this afternoon with esteemed Ustad Sayyaf, leader of Ettahad-e Eslami, and with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs had a familiarization meeting this morning in his office with His Excellency Hamid al-Ghabid and his accompanying delegation.

Esteemed Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, in line with his peaceful efforts to resolve our country's problems, arrived in Kabul this morning as head of a high-ranking ICO delegation to meet authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and a number of our country's jehdi leaders. [passage omitted]

To Meet With Hekmatyar

BK1107160494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] A delegation of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] led by its secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, held extensive talks with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul. Modalities for removing the differences between the rival Afghan factions were discussed during the talks. The ICO secretary general will return to Islamabad this evening. He will go to (Mehrab) tomorrow morning and visit (?Chahar Asiab) Province where he will hold talks with Afghan Prime Minister Golbbodin Hekmatyar. The supreme coordination council of Afghanistan has assured the ICO delegation that it will be given full ground and air protection. Meanwhile, troops opposed to President Rabbani fired at least nine rockets on the presidential palace in the Afghan capital, which fell within the boundaries of the palace. Reports say that the attacks were carried out during the official luncheon for the ICO [word indistinct] delegation. Earlier, planes of forces loyal to Afghan President Rabbani bombarded the opponent troops' positions southwest of Kabul. Artillery shells and rockets were fired before the fighting ended.

Golboddin-Dostam Forces Attack During Visit

LD1107192994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Despite the declaration of a cease-fire by the Islamic State on the eve of Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid's, secretary general of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], arrival to Kabul, Dostam-Golboddin's militia violated the cease-fire yesterday evening and today.

A source in the Armed Forces reported to a military correspondent of Bakhtar Information Agency that the Islamic State of Afghanistan, out of respect for the visit of Mr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary-general of ICO, and in order to contribute toward his efforts in ensuring peace in Afghanistan, declared a cease-fire two days ago so Mr. Hamid al-Ghabid and his accompanying delegation would be able to continue their peaceful efforts by taking advantage of the cease-fire.

However, Dostam-Golboddin's militia, being officially opposed to the cease-fire declaration, violated it and subjected residential areas and Islamic army positions to heavy weapons and missile fire.

The source adds, Golboddin-Dostam's militia resorted to a failed attack on the positions of the mojahedin and Islamic army south of Kabul yesterday afternoon. They were forced to retreat after suffering heavy casualties.

The attack by Golboddin-Dostam was carried out when units and companies of the mojahedin and Islamic army were fully observing the cease-fire declared by the Islamic State. The mojahedin and the Islamic army responded to the militia's attack at the frontline and forced them to retreat.

Despite this, the militia continued obstinantly and fired missiles on residential areas and public institutions in Kabul city. The forces of the Islamic army, in order to defend Kabul citizens, yesterday evening fired on the militia's heavy weapons and the positions of their heavy weapons. In the course of this retaliatory attack, the militia was cleared from the posts of Qala-e Ahmad Khan and Bagrami textile factory. In addition to capturing of hill of Qala-e Ahmad Khan and hill of Bagram textile factory, dozens of militiamen were killed or injured and the militia's six heavy weapons launcher systems were destroyed.

Golboddin-Dostam's militia, in order to compensate for yesterday's defeat and the loss of their positions, have fired around 300 missiles on the residential areas of Kabul city during the past 24 hours.

A source in Kabul garrison command says that as a result of missile fire, seven innocent people were martyred and 68 were injured.

According to another report, this afternoon while the official talks were continuing between the officials of the Islamic State and secretary general of the ICO in Kabul city, Golboddin-Dostam-Karmal militia, contrary to the

all international, Islamic, and Afghan norms and standards, fired a number of missiles on the meeting venue, but fortunately did not cause any loss of life.

India

Russia To Supply 2 'Additional' Cryogenic Engines

BK1107161494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Russia has agreed to stick to the original time schedule for supply of cryogenic engines to India. It will also two additional engines. This was disclosed by the minister of state of external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, in New Delhi today. He was responding to points raised by members of Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to his ministry.

Mr. Bhatia told members it has also been agreed by the two sides to collaborate in producing defense items in India which can be sold to third countries.

Russia made it clear that the Kashmir issue should be sorted out through bilateral negotiations on the basis of the Simla Agreement, he said.

Editorials View Rao's Moscow Visit, Russia Ties

Overview of Rao Visit

BK1007064594 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 5 Jul 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Old Friendship, New Phase"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin, speaking at the end of his second summit-level talks with Narasimha Rao, which was held after a gap of 13 months, said that his country shares identical views with India. On the other hand, the Indian prime minister remarked that their talks were fruitful. The reaction of one person was predominantly emotional while that of the other was very reserved. Is this merely the expression of their individual characters? It has become a legend over the past three years that Narasimha Rao is very economical in his speech. At least on the issue of relationship between India and Russia there is no reason for Rao to become passionate. A lot of excitement was generated a few days back centering on Rao's trip to Washington, but this was not observed during his Moscow visit. There are two reasons behind this. Firstly, the relative importance of the United States and Russia is no longer the same in the new global politics. Secondly, for Rao's India the importance of New Delhi's relationship with Moscow has changed a lot in comparison with that of the past. It is obvious that India's foreign policy will be in line with the economic policy which it is pursuing. If the main objective of the contacts between India and the United States is aimed at ushering in a new era of bilateral relations, then the vital issue in the India-Russia relationship is to resolve the problems which have been created by the changed circumstances. In reply to questions from journalists when returning home from Moscow, Rao said that the prospects have become bright for removing the bottlenecks which has arisen in the path of ties and transactions between the two countries. Here lies the success of his visit. In the speeches made by the two leaders it was seen that they made pledges to bring back the bilateral relationship of the two countries to the level which existed in the past between India and the former Soviet Union. In short, it may be said that at present they want to revive their old friendship.

The root of the existing problems lies in their past relationship. The first problem is bilateral trade. Trading between India and the Soviet Union was never in line with the normal regulations of international trade. From the very beginning it was a part of the political relationship between the two countries. Again, this relationship was influenced by the complexities of international politics, particularly those of the Cold War. As a result of this a lot of inconsistencies appeared in their bilateral economic relations. Till today it has not been possible to completely resolve the manifold problems, including the unrealistic rupee-ruble exchange rate; the imbalance in export-import trade; the problems relating to loans and their repayment; and state control over trade. At present the greatest problem which is being faced is that relating to the repayment of loans. Every year, India repays 30 billion rupees to Russia as loan money. These loans are being repaid in Indian currency. That is, Indian currency is being deposited in Russian treasury. What Russia will do with these rupees is of vital concewrn to India. This issue was discussed during the meeting held between the two sides this time. It was decided that apart from purchasing Indian goods with these rupees, Russia can also invest this currency in the infrastructural development of India. This reminds us of the PL-480 project, which sparked a lot of political controversy centering on the proper use of Indian currency deposited in the U.S. treasury. Those days have changed. It is expected that the leftists of India, even Jyoti Basu [chief minister of West Bengal], will only accept roads and power plants being constructed in India with money from a Russia which has deviated from socialism. The danger lies elsewhere. A report was published in Izvestia the day when Prime Minister Rao returned to New Delhi from Moscow. The report, quoting the acting minister of foreign economic relations of Russia, said that Moscow wants to auction off a large portion of India's debt money, perhaps about half of it. This means, that the reserves of Indian rupees lying with the Russian Government would go into the hands of others, perhaps into the hands of other international financial institutions. If this happens, the government of India or the Reserve Bank of India will not have any control over these reserves. If this money is utilized in speculative share markets then India will have no other alternative but to suffer from the adverse effects. For this reason the Indian Government requested the officials in Moscow not to sell these rupees in auction. Perhaps, Moscow officials have calculated that the profits which they will

make from the auction will be more valuable than the requests made by the Indian Government. The comment which Yeltsin made saying 'consensus has been reached on all issues' is merely a courtesy shown towards his guest. This instance shows that the future relationship between the two countries will be based on economic interests. The recent visit of Rao was aimed at achieving this. The agreement signed for setting up of joint ventures for the production of defense spares and also spares of fighter planes of Russian origin in India reflects this policy. This would help boost the exports of Indian industries. The past political relationship can be utilized in this way in activities relating to future economic development. At the same time India should be careful not to follow the past examples in making preparations for the future defense needs of the country. It should purchase fighter planes from Russia or tanks from Slovakia only if India does not have the means to buy superior quality of these equipment. It has not only become necessary to clean out the junk of the old system but also to bid farewell to the framework of the old relationship.

Future Ties 'Based on Reality'

BK0507140894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Jul 94 p 13

[Text] With the end of the cold war followed by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the demise of communism as an international force, the world has changed, forcing many countries to view the international scene without ideological blinkers. India is one among them, and its foreign policy has undergone a sea-change. Not only is the Treaty of Indo-Soviet Friendship dead but the emotional ties that linked India and the former Soviet Union have lost their relevance. The current emphasis is on a relationship based on reality, taking into account the political and economic interests of the country. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow and the various agreements signed by the two countries are significant pointers to the change. Mr Rao's visit is in return to President Yeltsin's visit to India last year but its importance lies in the efforts which the two countries have made in removing some of the irritants in their relationship. President Yeltsin's announcement that Russia would extend 180 days' credit to all importers wishing to buy goods from India is aimed at facilitating the repayment of Rs [rupees] 36,000 crore owed by India to Russia as the legacy of the rupee-ruble trade agreement. How far this step will go in streamlining Indo-Russian trade is not clear. The steps taken to strengthen economic cooperation are in the right direction. The extension of the Russian defence credit to India till 1996 will enable India to buy more Russian military hardware. Again, the proposed joint venture, an Indo-Russian Aviation Private Ltd, will provide a wide range of material support and services to all aircraft of Russian origin in India and in the Third World.

A major outcome of Mr Rao's visit is the 'Moscow Declaration' adopted by the two countries on the protection of the interests of "pluralistic state". Such a declaration is quite timely in the context of problems like threats from growing nationalism, religious and political extremism, terrorism and separatism which the two countries face. But to expect that the pact alone will keep the separatists and fundamentalists under control is to run away from reality. No doubt, by expressing concern at these problems, Russia and India have alerted world opinion and beyond that, nothing need be expected. The fight against separatists, terrorists and fundamentalists is essentially that of the country concerned.

Although India should not expect too much from Russia—the fiasco of cryogenic engine deal is evidence enough—a solid relationship with that country will be in India's interests. Though it does not enjoy the status of a super power, it is militarily strong and has huge industrial potential. But the way in which Russia is accommodating the West, it will be too much to hope that its interest in India will be of the same intensity as that of the former Soviet Union. The right course, therefore, is to assess what can be expected from Yeltsin's Russia and to set the goal accordingly.

Technological Agreements Viewed

BK0507121394 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 2 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] The eleven new agreements signed between India and Russia during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Russia will certainly be highly beneficial to the Indian economy and will also boost the Russian economy. It only remains to be seen to what extent Russia is able to honor these agreements—especially those dealing with the manufacture of spare parts for planes and the exchange of the latest technology. If Russia could provide full cooperation to India in space research, India would be able to take a giant leap forward in technological development, which would also be a milestone for our overall national economy.

But doubts have surfaced about the agreements because many developed countries in the world, especially the United States, oppose the idea of India acquiring the latest technology in the field of space research and defense. The bitter fact is that the United States is worried by the technological advancements Indian scientists have already made. It wants its monopoly in the field of extremely advanced technology to remain unchallenged. We must remember that the cryogenic rocket engine deal signed between India and Russia ran into difficulty because of continuous U.S. objections and unabetted pressure on Russia to shelve the agreement. Russia wilted under U.S. pressure that time, and so we must wonder whether Russia will fulfill its part of the new agreements and not succumb to U.S. dictates. If a powerful country like Russia were to make decisions based on U.S. dictates, it would be a very unfortunate situation for the overall development of the world

economy. The growing U.S. monopoly in space research, defense, and other vital scientific fields ought to be broken. This will only happen when other nations around the world cooperate with each other honestly in the exchange of high technology. Science and technology cannot be the exclusive preserve of one nation alone. Unfortunately, the United States seeks to perpetuate this arrangement through hooliganism and highhandedness. If Russia and India dare to face this problem jointly and resolutely, the growing U.S. monopoly in every international field would be checked.

Russia has the best scientific talent. As far as talent and ability is concerned, Indian scientists are also second to none and could match the best scientific brains in the world. The greatest problem confronting Indian scientists is the lack of opportunities to work and show off their talent. Bureaucratic and political intrusions disturb their work. Their talents and abilities are subjected to insults and ignominy for petty political reasons. The manner in which the job reservation issue is being promoted in every aspect does not bode well for scientific research and development. While India is trying its best to seek Russian cooperation and acquire the best technology in the world, it must also fully ensure that its internal conditions are conducive to this technological growth. Merely signing agreements in Moscow is not enough to develop space research and technology. India will only be able to develop advanced defense systems and high technology when the nation begins to honor its talent and provide the right opportunities for the development of talent and ability without any discrimination or political interference.

Russia and India have been good friends for a long time, but the collapse of the Soviet Union not only decreased the amount of bilateral trade, it also jeopardized existing agreements. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Russia was very conducive to the implementation of the earlier agreements. The eleven new agreements could signal a new epoch of friendly relations between the two countries. In order to achieve this India should try to improve its internal conditions and Russia should not wilt under American pressure.

Iran

Velayati Denies Cooperation With DPRK on Missiles

OW1107152194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 11 KYODO—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Monday [11 July] that Iran does not think there will be "any dramatic change" in the foreign policy of North Korea following the death of Kim Il-song last Friday.

Velayati, in an interview with Japanese media based in Tehran, also denied that Iran is cooperating with North Korea in developing long-range surface-to-surface missiles, adding that there are no North Korean military experts in Iran.

Velayati said cooperation between the two countries is not against any other country.

Regarding a statement from the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers at their weekend Naples summit, which called on Iran to have more participation in international peace efforts, he said it is exactly Iran's policy and that Iran's efforts in Afghanistan and Tajikistan are proof of that.

Velayati also denied allegations by Britain that Iran is supporting the Irish Republican Army and said that such allegations stem from "internal problems of the British Government."

Commentary Views Death of DPRK's Kim Il-song

LD1107125694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] With the death of North Korean leader Kim Il-song, the Communist Party and the national parliament are meeting today possibly to discuss a successor to Kim Il-song. Many political observers believe that Kim Chong-il, the eldest son of the deceased North Korean leader, who was officially elected as successor to his father in 1982, will be chosen as the country's president.

With the possible coming to power of Kim Chong-il in Pyongyang, especially during the current sensitive situation in which North Korea is holding negotiations with its southern rival as well as with the United States, one must ask: Will the new leadership continue the path of the deceased North Korean leader?

According to political observers the most rational answer lies in the fact that North Korea enjoys a superior position in political negotiations with the United States and in the future talks with the leaders of the two Koreas in Pyongyang, and thus the new North Korean leaders taking over the establishment led by Kim Il-song in the present conditions, will continue his path. This is even more true considering the fact that Kim Il-song's powerful resistance to the United States' diplomatic pressures—culminating in Washington's failure to attract international support for economic sanctions against North Korea—could be a suitable model for the new North Korean leadership.

During the past year the United States has tried many times to pressure the North Korean leadership into respecting its views, especially on the new regional security arrangements within the framework of regional nonnuclearazation. And Pyongyang's nuclear capabilities was an excuse for continuation of such pressures, the aim of which is merely to prevent Korean unification.

This is because unification could cause a great deal of concern in political circles in Washington. And America's concern stems from the fact that the combination of North Korea's organized political establishment with South Korea's advanced technology would destroy the reason for the continuation of the United States' political-military presence in East Asia and the Pacific region—a region which, with tremendous economic growth in the past few years, has attracted the eyes of the great powers to itself.

At the present sensitive period the important responsibility of the new North Korean leadership is to continue its negotiations with South Korea and thus prepare the way for the withdrawal of the 40,000-strong American forces from the region.

Trade Delegation Cancels London Trip in Protest

LD1107172194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] In protest at recent remarks made by British officials against the Islamic Republic of Iran, our country's commercial-industrial delegation, due to leave for London this evening at the official invitation of the head of the British Chamber of Commerce, has cancelled its trip.

The delegation was to be led by Mr Khamushi, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Mines, and a number of other officials and was to be accompanied by a number of managers of our country's industries. The delegation was to pay a working visit to London and review ways of expanding trade between the two countries.

Announcing the news, the deputy head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Mines said to the Central News Unit: We believe Iran is a victim of terrorism, and Western countries support terrorism against our country. He added: On the eve of the meeting between the two countries' economic officials, aimed at expanding trade relations, the raising of such issues by the British authorities cannot be justified.

He added: This trip will be deferred for an indefinite period, and setting a new date depends on that country amending its policies vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran.

TEHRAN TIMES Says G-7 Seeks To Dominate World

LD1207090394 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—A morning English daily here Tuesday [12 July] said that the G7 member states proved in their final statement that they have reached agreement on leveling fictitious charges of terrorism against Tehran "as the Islamic metropolis".

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' referred in its editorial to the statement issued in the last day of the G7 meeting in Naples, Italy, which declared that Iran's approach to terrorism was counter to international efforts to achieve peace and stability and requested Iran to revise its policies in this connection.

The paper pointed to the diversion of the G7's attention "from the economic field to the political area," and noted that the G7 has been trying "to use economics merely as a lever of power to intervene in political crises around the world".

"The group's main objective is to gain domination on the entire world by active opposition to nations which differ from the seven industrialized countries in cultural and political areas," it said.

Referring to the fact that Iran has recently been a victim of the terrorist activities of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) such as bombing in Mashhad or killing of two Iranian Christian pastors, the paper argued that the country was facing the G7's double standards concerning the issue of terrorism.

Referring to the condemnation of the recent MKO crimes by some of the western countries such as Britain, the paper concluded that the westerners have quite obviously been caught "in a web of contradictions".

G-7 Summit Said Testing UK's Terrorism Policy

LD1107161994 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] London, July 11, IRNA—The British Government has been set a stern test by the G7 summit to show its commitment to combatting terrorism by banning all activity of the outlawed anti-Iran terrorist group, Mojahedin-e Khalq (MKO), on its soil.

The final declaration by the Group of Seven major industrial powers meeting in Naples Sunday [10 July] called upon all countries to "take effective action to deny the use of their territory to terrorist organizations."

The statement's separate reference to combatting terrorism did not single out anyone in particular but was explicit for all states to comply with in deeds as well as mere words.

In advance of the declaration, the British Government was said Saturday to have been pressing the leaders of Italy, Germany, France, Japan, Canada and the U.S. to pressure Iran to sever its supposed links with the IRA campaign in Northern Ireland.

But following its apparent failure to gain a consensus, the Foreign Office in London Monday distanced itself from demanding a stronger statement than calling on Iran to "participate constructively in international efforts for peace."

A spokesman denied that Britain had initiated any move to pressure the Iranian Government. He was also unable to substantiate reports that Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, had said he had "clear evidence" that the IRA was being funded by Iran.

The admission by the Foreign Office was that Britain did raise its allegations of Iran's supposed links with the IRA in discussions emanating not from the UK but following on from last year's summit in Tokyo.

In contrast to the unsubstantiated allegations made against Iran's good name, Britain itself has been found more directly to have been harboring members of the MKO terrorist organization for many years.

The outlawed anti-Iran group has been able to freely promote its terrorist activities on British soil not only with the seeming complicity of the UK Government but with the active support of an all-party parliamentary group.

For the past month, the MKO has even been allowed to propagate its voice every weekday night on an authorized radio station in London contrary to the UK Government's supposed policy of "not giving oxygen to terrorists."

Majles Vice Speaker Meets With Jordanian Delegation

LD1107182394 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Majles vice-speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani said here today said that the support of certain governments for activities of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) was an obstacle in the expansion of their ties with Iran.

In a meeting with the Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Ibrahim Zeid al-Kilani, he appreciated Jordan's denunciation of the MKO terrorists, who last month committed a sacrilege by planting a bomb at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) [peace be upon him] in Mashhad.

The June 20 blast at the shrine on the day of Ashura (martyrdom anniversary of Imam Husayn), killed 26 pilgrims and shocked the civilized world.

Rowhani who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), told the visitors that Palestine remains the major problem of the Muslim world.

"We believe that Israel is a cancerous tumour in the region and it will never forsake its inherent nature of hegemony and aggression."

The vice-speaker who is also head of the Majles Foreign Relations Commission, said the vigilance of regional nations against the conspiracies of outsiders, would alone guarantee their victory.

"The cry of Muslim strugglers in Jordan and of other freedom fighters is a divinely-inspired cry. We should properly utilise this opportunity and put an end to the economic hegemony over Muslim interests," he added.

Rowhani referred to the spiritual bonds between Iran and Jordanian Muslims, and said the delay in bilateral relations following the victory of the Islamic revolution is a result of the plots of enemies of the two nations.

Al-Kilani extended an invitation to Rowhani on behalf of the Jordanian Parliament to visit Amman, which the latter accepted.

Earlier today, the Jordanian parliamentary delegation paid its respects at the mausoleum of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and also at the tombs of martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi imposed war at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

Al-Kilani felt emotional and said a visit to a place like Behesht-e Zahra gives a sense that Iranian martyrs like the martyrs of Qods have purified the lands of Islam.

Document Found Containing MKO 'Terrorist Policies'

LD1107131894 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Security forces have found an important document from a house in a western border city which contains the main terrorist policies of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] in the country and abroad. According to an informed source, the document contains the synopsis of 48 hours of dicussions between the ranking members of the terrorist grouplet in the so-called National Resistance Council in March this year.

The participants in the dicussions were Seyyed ol-Mohadesin, Mas'ud Bani-Sadr, Mehdi Abrishamchi, Mohsen Reza'i, 'Ali-Reza Jafarzadeh, Zahra Merrikhi, Shahrzad Sadr Haaj Seyyed-Javadi, Parviz Khaza'i, Manuchehr Hezarkhani and Hedayatollah Matindaftari.

They made various proposals at the meeting of the so-called National Resistance Council which included:

- Adding fuel to ethnic, tribal and religious differences in Iran to create a domestic crisis and encourage international circles and western governments to object to Iran.

- Launching an extensive propaganda campaign to make the west pessimist about the future of Iran, disrupt Iran's economic, political.... cooperation with western countries and finally plunge the country into an international crisis.

Making the presence of the council felt inside Iran in order to disprove claims by American and European parliaments and personalities that Iran is politically stable and that there was no sign of opposition groups in the country.

Printing a publication called IRAN-ZAMIN under supervision of the council which could act as a supplementary to the "Voice of Iran Zamin" radio.

The participants in the discussions also proposed that all activities be carried out under disguises such as sympathizers of the council, or associations of experts, athletes or artists rather than the National Resistance Council or the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization which carry no weight in Europe.

Majles Speaker on Islamic Society Freedoms

LD1107103994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Addressing a gathering of lecturers and students from the universities of Hamadan last night, Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said that the growth in the number of university students in the country from 250,000 before the revolution to 1.15 million after the victory of the revolution was a consequence of the fact that the officials of the country place great value on the expansion of knowledge and on training well-informed managers and specialists.

The Majles speaker referred to the cultural onslaught being carried out by global arrogance against the Islamic revolution and stressed that, despite our enemies' efforts, our people and officials are very familiar with these ploys and tend to confront them at the appropriate time.

Nateq-Nuri also emphasized the exalted outlook of Islam with regard to raising the people's level of knowledge and education and keeping them away from superstition. He went on to say: Our Islamic society is the freest country in the world from the point of view of freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, and freedom of the written word. He added: There are no obstacles in our country regarding the expression of one's opinions within the framework of shari'ah.

Commentary: Iran Respects Religious Minority Rights

LD1107155794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the murder of two priests by elements affiliated with the terroristic splinter group known as Mojahedin-e Khalq [MKO] that occurred in the space of about one week, the head of the Armenian diocese council in Tehran, [on] Sunday July 10 in an interview with IRNA, while denouncing this terroristic measure, demanded punishment for those responsible for the crime.

Priest Manukian, head of the Armenian diocese council in Tehran, in a conversation also stressed that Iran's Armenian community expect international organizations and human right bodies to condemn the main elements responsible for the crime and also their anti-human acts.

The Armenian official referred to the attitude of foreign media towards the incident and specified that contrary to the illusions existing with regard to the status of religious minorities in Iran, the Armenians in this country are leading their lives in accordance with the Constitution, and they freely adopt decisions at all times.

Murders of priest Michaelian of the Divinity Society and priest Dibaj in recent days have been exploited by foreign news circles as a ploy for circulating rumors and levelling unjust charges against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is indisputable that since the victory of the Islamic revolution, certain Western states and those hostile towards the revolution have tried to induce the idea that human rights, especially the rights of the religious minorities, are not respected in Iran. On the contrary, the Islamic Iran has constantly and under such conditions respected the rights of religious minorities, that the countries contending to defend human rights have failed to observe them.

In a brief comparison, it becomes quite evident that the Islamic Republic of Iran has in political, social, cultural and scientific fields managed not only to respect the minorities' rights, but has even surpassed other states in many such spheres. For instance, out of 60 million population of the Islamic Republic of Iran, religious minorities, among whom the Armenians are the largest group with a population of 200,000, have a total of five deputies in the Islamic Consultative Assembly. However, in some European states, which have a population of over 50 million, including about five million Muslims, there does not exist even a single deputy of the Muslims in their legislative bodies.

At any rate, in the opinion of informed observers, murder of two Protestant priests in Iran within a brief period shows yet another plot of the MKO against the Islamic republic system of Iran. The plot has taken place at the present juncture, with the aim of creating discord, and depicting Iran as insecure for religious minorities. The issue can be discerned by considering the sensitivity of the West to the subject of religious minorities in Iran, and misuse by the West of the ploy of human rights against this country.

Nepal

Parties 'Angered' by King's Dissolution of Parliament

BK1207055094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Kathmandu, July 11 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal on Monday [11 July] dissolved parliament and announced mid-term polls for November 13, state radio announced quoting a royal palace source.

The decision was taken on the advice of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who resigned Sunday after losing a crucial parliamentary debate on his government's socio-economic and political annual programme.

The issue of whether elections should be held after the collapse of Koirala's turbulent administration, which came to power in May 1991, has split the ruling Nepal Congress (NC) party.

The king has taken the unusual step of asking Koirala to continue in office until the elections, which he has asked him to oversee, the radio said.

The radio said: "His majesty the king hopes that the forthcoming parliamentary general elections to be held in November 13 will be free and fair for all."

The king's move has apparently angered all the major political parties in the 205-seat house of representatives.

Isoor Pokshrel, Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) central committee member and general-secretary, said the party was very surprised to learn of the king's call for polls nearly 18 months before routine elections were due in 1996.

"The king's action is unconstitutional and we strongly denounce it," he said.

A spokesman for the 36 dissident NC MPs, who were instrumental in Koirala's losing Sunday's debate, also expressed surprise at the king's decision which was taken against the advice of NC President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. He said the NC should be given a chance to form a new government.

"Altogether 86 members, including the leftist groups and others had voted against the Koirala governments annual programme on Sunday while 43 other members were absent during the voting hours," a parliament source earlier said.

The 36 NC dissident MPs were among 43 who abstained from voting on Sunday, prompting Koirala to step down after being defeated.

The dissolution came after Bhattarai unsuccessfully tried Monday to negotiate with pro-Koirala MPs on the formation of a new government with their help.

Bhattarai had talks lasting over an hour with the monarch at royal palace, on the prospects of forming of a new NC government and on the possibility of mid-term polls, a highly placed palace source told AFP.

Observers say the dissolution has diminished the chances of the communists forming a government, because the party believed it could muster the necessary majority to form a government under the present parliament.

Pakistan

Government Rejects Espionage Charge, Arrests Diplomat

BK1207094194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with India on the beating up and arrest of a member of the Pakistani High Commission by Indian officials in New Delhi. The foreign secretary summoned the Indian high commissioner at the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday and apprised him of the Pakistani Government's strong protest on the arrest and beating of the Pakistani. The Indian high commissioner was told that a team of 12 Indian officials seized the Pakistani official, Bajwa, while he was shopping. He was beaten up with rubber-coated (?bands), which caused heavy swelling on his head, face, and waist. Later, Bajwa was taken to the police station when he was photographed and filmed and interrogated in a bid to forcibly secure a confession. The foreign secretary told the Indian high commissioner that this is the (?13th) incident of beating a member of the Pakistani high commission in New Delhi by implicating them in groundless allegations of espionage. It violates the Pakistan-India agreement on the treatment of the personnel of diplomatic missions. The foreign secretary also said that the Indian authorities should take steps to ensure that incidents of deliberately harassing and beating up the personnel of the Pakistani high commission do not recur in the future.

The Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, in a note to the Indian External Affairs Ministry, has said that the oppressive treatment of the Pakistani high commission personnel by Indian authorities and intimidating them will further aggravate the already tense situation between the two countries.

Pakistani security agencies caught V.S. Chauhan, an Indian diplomat, red-handed as he was receiving sensitive documents from a Pakistani agent. V.S. Chauhan, who is working as an attache at the Indian High Commission, is an officer of the Research and Analysis Wing [RAW] of the Indian intelligence agency. Briefing ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN about their operation yesterday, the security agency personnel said that they had received the information that Chauhan would receive sensitive documents from a Pakistani agent, and they raided the meeting and arrested them both. During investigation, the Indian diplomat said that the RAW is involved in many incidents of sabotage in major cities in Pakistan. He also said that RAW is pursuing a preplanned scheme to create panic and fear by indiscriminate shooting in public places, mosques, and other important places by its agents in Pakistan. He said that his main responsibility is to look for Pakistani visa seekers who could be utilized by them.

Explosion in Lahore Mosque Kills 2, Injures 26

BK1207081694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Two persons were killed and another 26 injured in an explosion in a mosque in Rasul Park, Ichhra, Lahore during the Fajr [morning] prayers this morning. The injured have been admitted in Mayo Hospital.

Article Views Indian Prime Minister's Moscow Visit

BK1207065194 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Jul 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by Shah Nawaz]

[Text] The Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow is perfectly in line with Russia's new diplomatic strategy not to turn towards the West solely. It was almost simultaneous with the Moscow trip of Chinese Foreign Minister.

Now it is the turn of Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs to visit Moscow which is highly valued here. All this, undoubtedly, helps neutralise the activity of Russians in the direction of US and Europe. I am not at all sure that the Sino-Pakistan "framework" of Rao's visit will give a lot of joy to Indians.

Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow was the first official visit by an Indian Head of State to the Russian Federation. Relations between Moscow and Delhi were different 12 years ago when the Indian politician last visited the Soviet Union.

When he attended the November 1982 funeral of Leonid Brezhnev and stood beside the then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi, Narasimha Rao (then Foreign Affairs Minister) could hardly have expected that a time would come when he would return here in a different capacity and in a different epoch.

Many problems and questions of cooperation emerged after the break-up of the USSR. What do India and Russia have in common today and on what basis should their interaction be built? "Anti- imperialism" and "anti-colonialism," which were elements of the Soviet Union's foreign policy for decades, met with a ready response in India, where citizens did not forget the humiliation of colonialism. During the very first years of India's independence a strategic union took shape on the basis of these principles between Moscow and Delhi and the leaders of the Eastern Bloc and the Non-Aligned Movement. Now that the USSR and its satellites are gone and the Non-Aligned Movement has petered out India and Russia face the same task of finding their place on the new geo-political world map. Anti-imperialist rehetoric has given place to no less energetic appeals to be integrated in the world community as quickly as possible. But here the similarity ends.

From two signed political documents which comprised 11 different agreements, it is clear, that in spite of failure of the former ideological frames of friendship between India and Russia, both sides decided not to violate former traditions and act in the international arena hand by hand. This opens to India door to the up-to-date Russian weapons and spares.

According to the signed documents it is prolonged for two years the validity of the inter government agreement on credit to India for financing long-term programmes in technical cooperation and purchasing the special items i e weapons.

However, now Russians, feeling severe economic crisis, are ready to sell their weapons without searching ideological basis. The door to Russia's arsenals is opened to all who will pay. In this direction Indians wasted their efforts. From the diplomatic sources it is known that Moscow agreed to help India modernise its fleet of MIG-21, the main fighter jet with the air force. The cost of this contract is 350 million dollars.

Regional and global security issues—including the Korean situation and New Delhi's tensions with Islamabad—also figured in talks, diplomat said.

According to certain vague hints of Moscow newspapers the issue of debt payments remains clouded. The Indian diplomats based in Moscow claim that it is all through the Russian fault because they have not worked out the procedure of paying out, which was agreed upon by Boris Yeltsin in Delhi. This is hard to believe because Russia today is short of both cash and commodities and is ready to receive payments in any form. By the way now the plan is to sell 13 billion rupees (dollars 417 million) worth of Indian debts to Russian businessmen.

India owes Russia the equivalent of dollar 10 billion, which it has been paying out in so-called clearing rupees that can only be used to purchase Indian goods and services.

And, to end with about two savoury details. Moscow newspapers having hard lines in the market economy, seem to rejoice the visit more than others. Most likely because of embassy's pressuring more than 250 Indian companies registered in Moscow to buy out whole pages for greeting messages on the occasion of Rao's stay in Russia. The outcome was quite noisy. But the same newspapers forgot to publish the short summary of two signed political Russian-Indian declarations.

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